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THE

HISTORY

OF

SANDFORD AND MERTON,

A WORK

INTENDED FOR THE USE OF CHILDREN.

Let not, O generous youth! thy mind recoil
At tranſitory pain, or manly toil!
Nor fondly linger in the painted vale,
Nor crop the flowers, nor woo the ſummer's gale!
Heedleſs of pleaſure's voice, be thine the care
Nobly to ſuffer and ſublimely dare,
While virtue waves on high her radiant prize,
And each hard ſtep but lifts thee to the ſkies.

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1798.

THE

HISTORY

OF

SANDFORD AND MERTON.

WHILE theſe ſcenes were paſſing, Mrs. Merton, though ignorant of the danger of her ſon, was not undiſturbed at home. Some accounts had been brought of Harry's combat, which ſerved to make her uneaſy, and to influence her ſtill more againſt him. Mrs. Compton too and Miſs Matilda, who had conceived a violent diſlike to Harry, were buſy to inflame her by their malicious repreſentations. While ſhe

was in theſe diſpoſitions Mr. Merton happened to enter, and was at once attacked by all the ladies upon the ſubject of this improper connexion. He endeavoured, for a long time, to remove their prejudices by reaſon, but when he found that to be impoſſible, he contented himſelf with telling his wife, that a little time would perhaps decide which were the moſt proper companions for their ſon; and that till Harry had done ſomething to render himſelf unworthy of their notice, he never could conſent to the treating him with coldneſs or neglect. At this moment a female ſervant burſt into the room with all the wildneſs of affright, and cried out with a voice that was ſcarcely articulate, Oh! madam, madam! ſuch an accident—poor, dear maſter Tommy..... What of him, for God's ſake? cried out Mrs. Merton, with an impatience and concern that ſufficiently marked her feelings. Nay, madam, anſwered the ſervant, he is not much hurt they ſay; but little Sandford has taken him to a bull-

baiting,

baiting, and the bull has gored him, and William and John are bringing him home in their arms. Theſe words were ſcarcely delivered, when Mrs. Merton uttered a violent ſhriek, and was inſtantly ſeized with an hyſteric fit. While the ladies were all employed in aſſiſting her, and reſtoring her ſenſes, Mr. Merton, who, though much alarmed, was more compoſed, walked precipitately out, to learn the truth of this imperfect narration. He had not proceeded far, before he met the crowd of children and ſervants, one of whom carried Tommy Merton in his arms. As ſoon as he was convinced that his ſon had received no other damage than a violent fright, he began to inquire into the circumſtances of the affair, but before he had time to receive any information, Mrs. Merton, who had recovered from her fainting, came running wildly from the houſe. When ſhe ſaw that her ſon was ſafe, ſhe caught him in her arms, and began to utter all the incoherent expreſſions of a mother's fondneſs. It was

with difficulty that her husband could prevail upon her to moderate her transports till they were within. Then she gave a loose to her feelings in all their violence; and, for a considerable time, was incapable of attending to any thing but the joy of his miraculous preservation. At length, however, she became more composed, and observing that all the company were present except Harry Sandford, she exclaimed, with sudden indignation, So, I see that little abominable wretch has not had the impudence to follow you in; and I almost wish that the bull had gored him as he deserved. What little wretch, mamma, said Tommy, do you mean? Whom can I mean, cried Mrs. Merton, but that vile Harry Sandford, that your father is so fond of, and who had nearly cost you your life, by leading you into this danger? He! mamma, said Tommy, he lead me into danger! He did all he could to persuade me not to go; and I was a very naughty boy indeed, not to take his advice. Mrs. Merton stood amazed at this

information; for her prejudices had operated ſo powerfully upon her mind, that ſhe had implicitly believed the guilt of Harry upon the imperfect evidence of the maid. Who was it then, ſaid Mr. Merton, could be ſo imprudent? Indeed, papa, anſwered Tommy, we were all to blame, all but Harry, who adviſed and begged us not to go, and particularly me, becauſe he ſaid it would give you ſo much uneaſineſs when you knew it, and that it was ſo dangerous a diverſion. Mrs. Merton looked confuſed at her miſtake, but Mrs. Compton obſerved that ſhe ſuppoſed Harry was afraid of the danger, and therefore had wiſely kept out of the way. Oh! no, indeed, madam, anſwered one of the little boys; Harry is no coward, though we thought him ſo at firſt, when he let maſter Tommy ſtrike him; but he fought maſter Maſh in the braveſt manner I ever ſaw, and though maſter Maſh fought very well, yet Harry had the advantage; and I ſaw him follow us at a little diſtance, and keep his eye upon maſter

Merton all the time, till the bull broke looſe; and then I was ſo frightened that I do not know what became of him. So, this is the little boy, ſaid Mr. Merton, that you were for driving from the ſociety of your children! But let us hear more of the ſtory, for as yet I know neither the particulars of his danger nor his eſcape. Upon this, one of the ſervants, who from ſome little diſtance had ſeen the whole affair, was called in and examined. He gave them an exact account of all; of Tommy's misfortune; of Harry's bravery; of the unexpected ſuccour of the poor black; and filled the whole room with admiration that ſuch an action, ſo noble, ſo intrepid, ſo fortunate, ſhould have been achieved by ſuch a child.

Mrs. Merton was now ſilent with ſhame at reflecting upon her own unjuſt prejudices, and the eaſe with which ſhe had become the enemy of a boy who had ſaved the life of her darling ſon; and who appeared as much ſuperior in character to all the young gentlemen at her houſe, as they

exceeded

exceeded him in rank and fortune. The young ladies now forgot their former objections to his perſon and manners; and ſuch is the effect of genuine virtue, all the company conſpired to extol the conduct of Harry to the ſkies. But Mr. Merton, who had appeared more delighted than all the reſt with the relation of Harry's intrepidity, now caſt his eyes around the room, and ſeemed to be looking for his little friend. But when he could not find him, he ſaid, with ſome concern, Where can be our little deliverer? Sure he can have met with no accident, that he has not returned with the reſt! No, ſaid one of the ſervants; as to that, Harry Sandford is ſafe enough, for I ſaw him go towards his own home in company with the black. Alas! anſwered Mr. Merton, ſurely he muſt have received ſome unworthy treatment, that could make him thus abruptly deſert us all. And now I recollect that I heard one of the young gentlemen mention a blow that Harry had received; ſurely, Tommy, you could not

have been ſo baſely ungrateful as to ſtrike the beſt and nobleſt of your friends! Tommy, at this, hung down his head; his face was covered with a burning bluſh, and the tears began ſilently to trickle down his cheeks. Mrs. Merton remarked the anguiſh and confuſion of her child, and, catching him in her arms, was going to claſp him to her boſom with the moſt endearing expreſſions; but Mr. Merton, haſtily interrupting her, ſaid, It is not now a time to give way to fondneſs for a child, that, I fear, has acted the baſeſt and vileſt part that can diſgrace an human being; and who, if what I ſuſpect is true, can be only a diſhonour to his parents. At this Tommy could no longer contain himſelf, but burſt out into ſuch a violent tranſport of crying, that Mrs. Merton, who ſeemed to feel the ſeverity of Mr. Merton's conduct with ſtill more poignancy than her ſon, caught her darling up in her arms, and carried him abruptly out of the room, accompanied by moſt of the ladies, who pitied

Tommy's

Tommy's abaſement, and agreed that there was no crime he could have been guilty of which was not amply atoned for by ſuch a charming ſenſibility.

But Mr. Merton, who now felt all the painful intereſt of a tender father, and conſidered this as the critical moment which was to give his ſon the impreſſion of worth or baſeneſs for life, was determined to examine the affair to the utmoſt. He therefore took the firſt opportunity of drawing the little boy aſide who had mentioned maſter Merton's ſtriking Harry, and queſtioned him upon the ſubject. But he, who had no particular intereſt in diſguiſing the truth, related the circumſtances nearly as they had happened; and, though he a little ſoftened matters in Tommy's favour, yet, without intending it, he held up ſuch a picture of his violence and injuſtice as wounded his father to the ſoul. While Mr. Merton was occupied by theſe uneaſy feelings, he was agreeably ſurpriſed by a viſit from Mr. Barlow, who came accidentally to

ſee him, with a perfect ignorance of all the great events which had ſo recently happened. Mr. Merton received this worthy man with the ſincereſt cordiality; but there was ſuch a gloom diffuſed over all his manners, that Mr. Barlow began to ſuſpect that all was not right with Tommy, and therefore purpoſely inquired after him, to give his father an opportunity of ſpeaking. This Mr. Merton did not fail to do; and taking Mr. Barlow affectionately by the hand, he ſaid, Oh! my dear ſir, I begin to fear that all my hopes are at an end in that boy, and all your kind endeavours thrown away. He has juſt behaved in ſuch a manner as ſhews him to be radically corrupted, and inſenſible of every principle but pride. He then related to Mr. Barlow every incident of Tommy's behaviour, making the ſevereſt reflections upon his inſolence and ingratitude, and blaming his own ſupineneſs, that had not earlier checked theſe boiſterous paſſions, that now burſt forth with ſuch a degree of fury, and threatened ruin to his hopes.

Indeed,

Indeed, anſwered Mr. Barlow, I am very ſorry to hear this account of my little friend; yet, I do not ſee it quite in ſo ſerious a light as yourſelf: and, though I cannot deny the dangers that may ariſe from a character ſo ſuſceptible of falſe impreſſions, and ſo violent at the ſame time, yet I do not think the corruption either ſo great, or ſo general, as you ſeem to ſuſpect. Do we not ſee, even in the moſt trifling habits of body or ſpeech, that a long and continual attention is required, if we would wiſh to change them; and yet our perſeverance is in the end generally ſucceſsful? Why then ſhould we imagine that thoſe of the mind are leſs obſtinate, or ſubject to different laws? Or, why ſhould we raſhly abandon ourſelves to deſpair, from the firſt experiments that do not ſucceed according to our wiſhes? Indeed, anſwered Mr. Merton, what you ſay is perfectly conſiſtent with the general benevolence of your character, and moſt conſolatory to the tenderneſs of a father. Yet, I know too well the general weakneſs of parents in reſpect to the faults

of

of their children, not to be upon my guard againſt the deluſions of my own mind. And when I conſider the abrupt tranſition of my ſon into every thing that is moſt inconſiſtent with goodneſs; how lightly, how inſtantaneouſly he ſeems to have forgotten every thing he had learned with you, I cannot help forming the moſt painful and melancholy preſages of the future. Alas, ſir, anſwered Mr. Barlow, what is the general malady of human nature but this very inſtability which now appears in your ſon? Do you imagine that half the vices of men ariſe from real depravity of heart? On the contrary, I am convinced that human nature is infinitely more weak than wicked; and that the greater part of all bad conduct ſprings rather from want of firmneſs than from any ſettled propenſity to evil. Indeed, replied Mr. Merton, what you ſay is highly reaſonable; nor did I ever expect that a boy ſo long indulged and ſpoiled ſhould be exempt from failings. But what particularly hurts me is, to ſee him proceed to ſuch diſ-

agreeable

agreeable extremities without any adequate temptation; extremities that I fear imply a defect of goodneſs and generoſity, virtues which I always thought he had poſſeſſed in a very great degree. Neither, anſwered Mr. Barlow, am I at all convinced that your ſon is deficient in either. But you are to conſider the prevalence of example, and the circle to which you have lately introduced him. If it is ſo difficult even for perſons of a more mature age and experience to reſiſt the impreſſions of thoſe with whom they conſtantly aſſociate, how can you expect it from your ſon? To be armed againſt the prejudices of the world, and to diſtinguiſh real merit from the ſplendid vices which paſs current in what is called ſociety, is one of the moſt difficult of human ſciences. Nor do I know a ſingle character, however excellent, that would not candidly confeſs he has often made a wrong election, and paid that homage to a brilliant outſide which is only due to real merit. You comfort me very much, ſaid Mr. Mer-

Merton; but ſuch ungovernable paſſions! ſuch violence and impetuoſity!—Are indeed very formidable, replied Mr. Barlow; yet, when they are properly directed, frequently produce the nobleſt effects; and hiſtory, as well as private obſervation, may inform us, that, if they ſometimes lead their poſſeſſor aſtray, they are equally capable of bringing him back to the right path, provided they are properly acted upon. You have, I doubt not, read the ſtory of Polemo, who, from a debauched young man, became a celebrated philoſopher, and a model of virtue, only by attending a ſingle moral lecture. Indeed, ſaid Mr. Merton, I am aſhamed to confeſs that the various employments and amuſements in which I have paſſed the greater part of my life, have not afforded me as much leiſure for reading as I could wiſh. You will therefore oblige me very much by repeating the ſtory you allude to.

The Story of POLEMO.

POLEMO, ſaid Mr. Barlow, was a young man of Athens, ſo diſtinguiſhed by his exceſſes, that he was the averſion of all the diſcreeter part of the city. He led a life of continual intemperance and diſſipation. His days were given up to feaſting and amuſements, his nights to riot and intoxication. He was conſtantly ſurrounded by a ſet of looſe young men, who imitated and encouraged his vices; and when they had totally drowned the little reaſon they poſſeſt, in copious draughts of wine, they were accuſtomed to ſally out, and practiſe every ſpecies of abſurd and licentious frolic. One morning they were thus wandering about, after having ſpent the night as uſual, when they beheld a great concourſe of people that were liſtening to the diſcourſes of a celebrated philoſopher named Xenocrates. The greater part of the young men, who ſtill retained ſome ſenſe of ſhame, were ſo ſtruck

with this ſpectacle, that they turned out of the way; but Polemo, who was more daring and abandoned than the reſt, preſſed forward into the midſt of the audience. His figure was too remarkable not to attract univerſal notice; for his head was crowned with flowers, his robe hung negligently about him, and his whole body was reeking with perfumes; beſides, his look and manners were ſuch as very little qualified him for ſuch a company. Many of the audience were ſo diſpleaſed at this interruption, that they were ready to treat the young man with great ſeverity; but the venerable philoſopher prevailed upon them not to moleſt the intruder, and calmly continued his diſcourſe, which happened to be upon the dignity and advantage of temperance. As he proceeded, he deſcanted upon this ſubject with ſo much force and eloquence, that the young man became more compoſed and attentive, as it were, in ſpite of himſelf. Preſently, as the ſage grew ſtill more animated in his repreſentation of the ſhameful

ſlavery

ſlavery which attends the giving way to our paſſions, and the ſublime happineſs of reducing them all to order, the countenance of Polemo began to change, and the expreſſion of it to be ſoftened. He caſt his eyes in mournful ſilence upon the ground, as if in deep repentance for his own contemptible conduct. Still the philoſopher increaſed in vehemence; he ſeemed to be animated with the ſacred genius of the art which he profeſt, and to exerciſe an irreſiſtible power over the minds of his hearers. He drew the portrait of an ingenuous and modeſt young man, that had been bred up to virtuous toils and manly hardineſs. He painted him triumphant over all his paſſions, and trampling upon human fears and weakneſs. Should his country be invaded, you ſee him fly to its defence, and ready to pour forth all his blood. Calm and compoſed he appears with a terrible beauty in the front of danger, the ornament and bulwark of his country. The thickeſt ſquadrons are penetrated by his reſiſtleſs valour,

and

and he points the paths of victory to his admiring followers. Should he fall in battle, how glorious is his lot! to be cut off in the honourable diſcharge of his duty, to be wept by all the brave and virtuous, and to ſurvive in the eternal records of fame! —While Xenocrates was thus diſcourſing, Polemo ſeemed to be tranſported with a ſacred enthuſiaſm; his eyes flaſhed fire, his countenance glowed with martial indignation, and the whole expreſſion of his perſon was changed. Preſently, the philoſopher, who had remarked the effects of his diſcourſe, painted, in no leſs glowing colours, the life and manners of an effeminate young man. Unhappy youth, ſaid he, what words ſhall I find equal to thy abaſement? Thou art the reproach of thy parents, the diſgrace of thy country, the ſcorn or pity of every generous mind. How is nature diſhonoured in thy perſon, and all her choiceſt gifts abortive! That ſtrength which would have rendered thee the glory of thy city, and the terror of her foes,

foes, is baſely thrown away on luxury and intemperance; thy youth and beauty are waſted in riot, and prematurely blaſted by diſeaſe. Inſtead of the eye of fire, the port of intrepidity, the ſtep of modeſt firmneſs, a ſqualid paleneſs ſits upon thy face, a bloated corpulency enfeebles thy limbs, and preſents a picture of human nature in its moſt abject ſtate. But hark! the trumpet ſounds; a ſavage band of unrelenting enemies have ſurrounded the city, and are prepared to ſcatter flames and ruin through the whole! The virtuous youth that have been educated to nobler cares, arm with generous emulation, and fly to its defence. How lovely do they appear, dreſt in reſplendent arms, and moving ſlowly on in a cloſe, impenetrable phalanx! They are animated by every motive which can give energy to an human breaſt, and lift it to the ſublimeſt achievements. Their hoary ſires, their venerable magiſtrates, the beauteous forms of trembling virgins, attend them to the war, with prayers and acclamations. Go forth, ye generous bands, ſecure to meet

the rewards of victory, or the repoſe of honourable death! Go forth, ye generous bands, but unaccompanied by the wretch I have deſcribed. His feeble arm refuſes to bear the ponderous ſhield; the pointed ſpear ſinks feebly from his graſp; he trembles at the noiſe and tumult of the war, and flies like the hunted hart to lurk in ſhades and darkneſs. Behold him rouſed from his midnight orgies, reeking with wine and odours, and crowned with flowers, the only trophies of his warfare; he hurries with trembling ſteps acroſs the city; his voice, his gait, his whole deportment proclaim the abject ſlave of intemperance, and ſtamp indelible infamy upon his name. While Xenocrates was thus diſcourſing, Polemo liſtened with fixed attention: the former animation of his countenance gave way to a viſible dejection; preſently his lips trembled and his cheeks grew pale; he was loſt in melancholy recollection, and a ſilent tear was obſerved to trickle down. But when the philoſopher deſcribed a character ſo like his own, ſhame ſeemed to take entire poſſeſſion of his ſoul,

and

and rouſing, as from a long and painful lethargy, he ſoftly raiſed his hands to his head, and tore away the chaplets of flowers, the monuments of his effeminacy and diſgrace: he ſeemed intent to compoſe his dreſs into a more decent form, and wrapped his robe about him, that before hung looſely waving with an air of ſtudied effeminacy. But when Xenocrates had finiſhed his diſcourſe, Polemo approached him with all the humility of conſcious guilt, and begged to become his diſciple; telling him that he had that day gained the moſt glorious conqueſt that had ever been achieved by reaſon and philoſophy, by inſpiring with the love of virtue a mind that had been hitherto plunged in folly and ſenſuality. Xenocrates embraced the young man, encouraged him in ſuch a laudable deſign, and admitted him among his diſciples. Nor had he ever reaſon to repent of his facility; for Polemo from that hour abandoned all his former companions and vices, and by his uncommon ardour for improvement,

very ſoon became as celebrated for virtue and wiſdom as he had before been for every contrary quality.

Thus, added Mr. Barlow, you ſee how little reaſon there is to deſpair of youth, even in the moſt diſadvantageous circumſtances. It has been juſtly obſerved, that few know all they are capable of; the ſeeds of different qualities frequently lie concealed in the character, and only wait for an opportunity of exerting themſelves; and it is the great buſineſs of education to apply ſuch motives to the imagination as may ſtimulate it to laudable exertions. For thus the ſame activity of mind, the ſame impetuoſity of temper, which, by being improperly applied, would only form a wild, ungovernable character, may produce the ſteadieſt virtue, and prove a bleſſing both to the individual and his country.

I am infinitely obliged to you for this ſtory, ſaid Mr. Merton; and as my ſon will certainly find a Xenocrates in you, I wiſh that you may have reaſon to think him in ſome

ſome degree a Polemo. But, ſince you are ſo kind as to preſent me theſe agreeable hopes, do not leave the work unfiniſhed, but tell me what you think the beſt method of treating him in his preſent critical ſituation. That, ſaid Mr. Barlow, muſt depend, I think, upon the workings of his own mind. He has always appeared to me generous and humane, and to have a fund of natural goodneſs amid all the faults which ſpring up too luxuriantly in his character. It is impoſſible that he ſhould not be at preſent poſſeſſed with the keeneſt ſhame for his own behaviour. It will be your firſt part to take advantage of theſe ſentiments, and, inſtead of a fleeting and tranſitory ſenſation, to change them into fixed and active principles. Do not at preſent ſay much to him upon the ſubject. Let us both be attentive to the ſilent workings of his mind, and regulate our behaviour accordingly.

This converſation being finiſhed, Mr.

Merton introduced Mr. Barlow to the company in the other room. Mrs. Merton, who now began to be a little ſtaggered in ſome of the opinions ſhe had been moſt fond of, received him with uncommon civility, and all the reſt of the company treated him with the greateſt reſpect. But Tommy, who had lately been the oracle and the admiration of all this brilliant circle, appeared to have loſt all his vivacity. He indeed advanced to meet Mr. Barlow with a look of tenderneſs and gratitude, and made the moſt reſpectful anſwers to all his inquiries; but his eyes were involuntarily turned to the ground, and ſilent melancholy and dejection were viſible in his face. Mr. Barlow remarked, with the greateſt pleaſure, theſe ſigns of humility and contrition, and pointed them out to Mr. Merton the firſt time he had an opportunity of ſpeaking to him without being overheard; adding, that, unleſs he was much deceived, Tommy would ſoon give ample proofs of the natural goodneſs of his character, and reconcile himſelf to all his friends. Mr. Merton heard this

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obſervation with the greateſt pleaſure, and now began to entertain ſome hopes of ſeeing it accompliſhed.

After the dinner was over, moſt of the young gentlemen went away to their reſpective homes. Tommy ſeemed to have loſt much of the enthuſiaſm which he had lately felt for his polite and accompliſhed friends; he even appeared to feel a ſecret joy at their departure, and anſwered with a viſible coldneſs all their profeſſions of regard and repeated invitations. Even Mrs. Compton herſelf and Miſs Matilda, who were alſo departing, found him as inſenſible as the reſt; though they did not ſpare the moſt extravagant praiſes and the warmeſt profeſſions of regard.

And now the ceremonies of taking leave being over, and moſt of the viſitors departed, a ſudden ſolitude ſeemed to have taken poſſeſſion of the houſe which was lately the ſeat of noiſe, and buſtle, and feſtivity. Mr. and Mrs. Merton and Mr. Barlow were left alone with Miſs Simmons

and Tommy, and one or two others of the ſmaller gentry who had not yet returned to their friends. As Mr. Barlow was not fond of cards, Mr. Merton propoſed, after the tea-table was removed, that Miſs Simmons, who was famous for reading well, ſhould entertain the company with ſome little tale or hiſtory, adapted to the comprehenſion even of the youngeſt. Miſs Simmons excuſed herſelf with the greateſt modeſty, but upon Mrs. Merton's joining in the requeſt, ſhe inſtantly complied, and fetching down a book, read the following ſtory of

SOPHRON *and* TIGRANES.

SOPHRON and Tigranes were the children of two neighbouring ſhepherds that fed their flocks in that part of Aſia which borders upon mount Lebanon. They were accuſtomed to each other from their earlieſt infancy, and the continual habit of converſing at length produced a tender and intimate friendſhip. Sophron was the larger

and

and more robuſt of the two; his look was firm, but modeſt, his countenance placid, and his eyes were ſuch as inſpired confidence and attachment. He excelled moſt of the youth of the neighbourhood in every ſpecies of violent exerciſe, ſuch as wreſtling, boxing, and whirling heavy weights; but his triumphs were conſtantly mixed with ſo much humanity and courteſy, that even thoſe who found themſelves vanquiſhed could feel no envy towards their conqueror. On the contrary, Tigranes was of a character totally different. His body was leſs ſtrong than that of Sophron, but excellently proportioned, and adapted to every ſpecies of fatigue. His countenance was full of fire, but diſpleaſed by an exceſs of confidence; and his eyes ſparkled with ſenſe and meaning, but bore too great an expreſſion of uncontrolled fierceneſs. Nor were theſe two youths leſs different in the application of their faculties than in the nature of them; for Tigranes ſeemed to be poſſeſſed by a reſtleſs ſpirit of commanding

all his equals, while Sophron, contented with the enjoyment of tranquillity, deſired nothing more than to avoid oppreſſion.

Still as they aſſiſted their parents in leading every morning their flocks to paſture, they entertained each other with rural ſports, or, laid under the ſhade of arching rocks, during the heat of the day, converſed with all the eaſe of childiſh friendſhip. Their obſervations were not many; they were chiefly drawn from the objects of nature which ſurrounded them, or from the ſimple modes of life to which they had been witneſs; but even here the diverſity of their characters was ſufficiently expreſſed. See, ſaid Tigranes one day, as he caſt his eyes upwards to the cliffs of a neighbouring rock, that eagle which riſes into the immenſe regions of air, till he abſolutely ſoars beyond the reach of ſight; were I a bird, I ſhould chooſe to reſemble him, that I might traverſe the clouds with the rapidity of a whirlwind, and dart like lightning upon my prey. That eagle, an-

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ſwered Sophron, is the emblem of violence and injuſtice; he is the enemy of every bird and even of every beaſt that is weaker than himſelf: were I to chooſe, I ſhould prefer the life of yonder ſwan, that moves ſo ſmoothly and inoffenſively along the river; he is ſtrong enough to defend himſelf from injury, without oppreſſing others; and, therefore, he is neither feared nor inſulted by other animals. While he was yet ſpeaking, the eagle, who had been hovering in the air, darted ſuddenly down at ſome diſtance, and ſeizing a lamb, was bearing it away in his cruel talons; when, almoſt in the ſame inſtant, the ſhepherd, who had been watching all his motions from a neighbouring hill, let fly an arrow from his bow, with ſo unerring an aim, that it pierced the body of the bird, and brought him headlong to the ground, writhing in the agonies of death. This, ſaid Sophron, I have often heard is the fate of ambitious people; while they are endeavouring to mount beyond their fellows, they are ſtop-

ped by ſome unforeſeen misfortune. For my part, ſaid Tigranes, I had rather periſh in the middle of the ſky, than enjoy an age of life, baſely chained down and grovelling upon the ſurface of the earth. What we either may enjoy, anſwered Sophron, is in the hand of Heaven; but may I rather creep during life, than mount to commit injuſtice and oppreſs the innocent!

In this manner paſſed the early years of the two friends. As they grew up to manhood, the difference of their tempers became more viſible, and gradually alienated them from each other. Tigranes began to deſpiſe the uniform labours of a ſhepherd, and the humble occupations of the country. His ſheep were neglected, and frequently wandered over the plains, without a leader to guard them in the day, or bring them back at night. The young man was in the mean time employed in climbing rocks, or traverſing the foreſt, to ſeek for eagles neſts, or pierce with his arrows the different wild animals which inhabit the woods. If he heard

heard the horn of the hunter, or the cry of hounds, it was impoſſible to reſtrain his eagerneſs. He regarded neither the ſummer's ſun nor the winter's froſt while he was purſuing his game. The thickeſt woods, the ſteepeſt mountains, the deepeſt rivers, were unable to ſtop him in his career. He triumphed over every danger and difficulty with ſuch an invincible courage as made him at once an object of terror and admiration to all the youth in the neighbourhood. His friend Sophron alone beheld his exploits neither with terror nor admiration. Of all his comrades Sophron was the only one whom Tigranes ſtill continued to reſpect; for he knew that, with a gentleneſs of temper which ſcarcely any thing could exaſperate, he poſſeſſed the firmeſt courage, and a degree of bodily ſtrength which rendered that courage invincible. He affected, indeed, to deſpiſe the virtuous moderation of his friend, and ridiculed it with ſome of his looſer comrades as an abject puſillanimity; but he felt himſelf

humbled whenever he was in his company as before a ſuperior being, and therefore gradually eſtranged himſelf from his ſociety.

Sophron, on the contrary, entertained the ſincereſt regard for his friend, but he knew his defects, and trembled for the conſequences which the violence and ambition of his character might one day produce. Whenever Tigranes abandoned his flocks, or left his ruſtic taſks undone, Sophron had the goodneſs to ſupply whatever he had omitted. Such was the vigour of his conſtitution, that he was indefatigable in every labour; nor did he ever exert his force more willingly than in performing theſe voluntary duties to his abſent friend. Whenever he met with Tigranes, he accoſted him in the gentleſt manner, and endeavoured to win him back to his former habits and manners. He repreſented to him the injury he did his parents, and the diſquietude he occaſioned in their minds, by thus abandoning the duties of his profeſſion. He ſometimes, but with the greateſt mildneſs, hint-

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ed at the coldneſs with which Tigranes treated him; and reminded his friend of the pleaſing intercourſe of their childhood. But all his remonſtrances were vain; Tigranes heard him at firſt with coolneſs, then with impatience or contempt, and, at laſt, avoided him altogether.

Sophron had a lamb which he had formerly ſaved from the devouring jaws of a wolf, who had already bitten him in ſeveral places, and deſtroyed his dam. The tenderneſs with which this benevolent young man had nurſed and fed him during his infancy had ſo attached him to his maſter, that he ſeemed to prefer his ſociety to that of his own ſpecies. Wherever Sophron went, the faithful lamb accompanied him like his dogs, lay down beſide him when he repoſed, and followed cloſe behind when he drove the reſt of the flock to paſture. Sophron was equally attached to his dumb companion; he often diverted himſelf with his innocent gambols, fed him with the choiceſt herbs out of his hands, and when

he ſlept at night, the lamb was ſure to repoſe beſide him.

It happened about this time, that Tigranes, as he was one day exploring the woods, diſcovered the den of a ſhe-wolf, in which ſhe had left her young ones while ſhe went out to ſearch for prey. By a caprice that was natural to his temper, he choſe out the largeſt of the whelps, carried it home to his houſe, and brought it up as if it had been an uſeful or harmleſs animal. While it was yet but young, it was incapable of doing miſchief; but, as it increaſed in age and ſtrength, it began to ſhow ſigns of a bloody and untameable diſpoſition, and made all the neighbouring ſhepherds tremble for the ſafety of their flocks. But, as the courage and fierceneſs of Tigranes had now rendered him formidable to all his aſſociates, and the violence of his temper made him impatient of all oppoſition, they did not ſpeak to him upon the ſubject; and as to his own parents, he had long learned to treat them with indifference or contempt. So-

phron

phron alone, who was not to be awed by fear, obſerving the juſt apprehenſions of the neighbourhood, undertook the taſk of expoſtulating with his friend, and endeavoured to prevail upon him to part with a beaſt ſo juſtly odious, and which might in the end prove fatal whenever his natural rage ſhould break out into open acts of ſlaughter. Tigranes heard him with a ſneer of deriſion, and only anſwered, that, if a parcel of miſerable ruſtics diverted themſelves with keeping ſheep, he, who had a more elevated ſoul, might ſurely entertain a nobler animal, for his diverſion. But, ſhould that nobler animal prove a public miſchief, coolly replied Sophron, you muſt expect that he will be treated as a public enemy. Woe be to the man, anſwered Tigranes, brandiſhing his javelin and ſternly frowning, that ſhall dare to meddle with any thing that belongs to me! Saying this, he turned his back upon Sophron, and left him with diſdain.

It was not long before the very event took place which had been ſo long foreſeen.

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The wolf of Tigranes, either impelled by the accidental taſte of blood, or by the natural fierceneſs of his own temper, fell one day upon the ſheep with ſuch an unexpected degree of fury, that he ſlaughtered thirty of them before it was poſſible to prevent him. Sophron happened at that time to be within view; he ran with amazing ſwiftneſs to the place, and found the ſavage bathed in blood, tearing the carcaſe of a lamb which he had juſt ſlain. At the approach of the daring youth the wolf began to utter a diſmal cry, and quitting his prey, ſeemed to prepare himſelf for a ſlaughter of another kind. Sophron was entirely unarmed, and the ſize and fury of the beaſt which ruſhed forward to attack him might well have excuſed him had he declined the combat. But he, conſulting only his native courage, wrapped his ſhepherd's cloak around his left arm to reſiſt the firſt onſet of his enemy, and, with a determined look and nimble pace, advanced towards his threatening adverſary. In an inſtant the

wolf

wolf ſprang upon him, with an horrid yell; but Sophron nimbly eluded his attack, and, ſuddenly throwing his vigorous arms about the body of his adverſary, compelled him to ſtruggle for his own ſafety. It was then that he uttered cries more dreadful than before; and, as he writhed about in all the agitations of pain and madneſs, he gnaſhed his terrible teeth with impotent attempts to bite; while the blood and foam which iſſued from his jaws rendered his figure ſtill more horrible than before. But Sophron, with undaunted courage, ſtill maintained his hold, and, graſping him with irreſiſtible ſtrength, prevented him from uſing either his teeth or claws in his own defence. It was not long before the ſtruggles and violence of the wolf grew perceptibly weaker from fatigue, and he ſeemed to wiſh to decline a farther combat with ſo formidable a foe, could he have found means to eſcape. Sophron then collected all his ſtrength, and, ſeizing his fainting adverſary by the neck and throat,

graſped

graſped him ſtill tighter in his terrible hands, till the beaſt, incapable either of diſengaging himſelf or breathing, yielded up the conteſt and his life together. It was almoſt in this moment that Tigranes paſſed that way, and unexpectedly was witneſs to the triumphs of Sophron, and the miſerable end of his favourite. Inflamed with pride and indignation, he uttered dreadful imprecations againſt his friend, who, in vain, attempted to explain the tranſaction; and, ruſhing upon him with all the madneſs of inveterate hate, aimed a javelin at his boſom. Sophron was calm as he was brave; he ſaw the neceſſity of defending his own life againſt the attacks of a perfidious friend; and, with a nimble ſpring, at once eluded the weapon and cloſed with his antagoniſt. The combat was then more equal, for each was reduced to depend upon his own ſtrength and activity. They ſtruggled for ſome time with all the efforts which diſappointed rage could inſpire on the one ſide, and a virtuous indignation on the other. At

length the fortune, or rather the force and coolneſs of Sophron, prevailed over the blind impetuous fury of Tigranes: he at once exerted his whole remaining ſtrength with ſuch ſucceſs, that he hurled his adverſary to the ground, where he lay bleeding, vanquiſhed, and unable to riſe. Thou ſcarcely, ſaid Sophron, deſerveſt thy life from my hands, who couldſt ſo wantonly and unjuſtly attempt to deprive me of mine; however, I will rather remember thy early merits than thy recent injuries. No, replied the raging Tigranes, load me not with thy odious benefits, but rather rid me of a life which I abhor, ſince thou haſt robbed me of my honour. I will never hurt thee, replied Sophron, but in my own juſt defence; live to make a better uſe of life, and to have juſter ideas of honour. Saying this, he aſſiſted Tigranes to riſe, but finding his temper full of implacable reſentment, he turned another way, and left him to go home alone.

It was not long after this event, that a company of ſoldiers marched acroſs the plains

plains where Sophron was feeding his flocks, and halted to refreſh themſelves under the ſhade of ſome ſpreading trees. The officer who commanded them was ſtruck with the comely figure and expreſſive countenance of Sophron. He called the young man to him, and endeavoured to enflame him with a military ardour, by ſetting before him the glory which might be acquired by arms, and ridiculing the obſcurity of a country life. When he thought he had ſufficiently excited his admiration, he propoſed to him that he ſhould enrol himſelf in his company, and promiſed him every encouragement which he thought moſt likely to engage the paſſions of a young man. Sophron thanked him with humility for his offers, but told him, that he had an aged father, who was now become incapable of maintaining himſelf; and therefore that he could accept of no offers, however advantageous they might appear, which would interfere with the diſcharge of this duty. The officer replied, and ridiculed the ſcruples of

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the young man; but, finding him inflexible in his reſolution, he at laſt turned from him with an air of contempt, and called his men to follow him, muttering as he went reflections upon the ſtupidity and cowardice of Sophron. The party had not proceeded far, before, by ill fortune, they came to the place where his favourite lamb was feeding; and as he had not yet learned to dread the cruelty of the human ſpecies, he advanced towards them with all the confidence of unſuſpicious innocence. This is a lucky accident, cried one of the ſoldiers, with a brutal ſatisfaction; fortune was not willing that we ſhould go without a ſupper, and has therefore ſent us a preſent. A happy exchange, anſwered a ſecond; a fat ſheep inſtead of a lubberly ſhepherd; and the coward will no doubt think himſelf happy to ſleep in a whole ſkin at ſo ſmall an expenſe. Saying this, he took the lamb, and bore it away in triumph; uttering a thouſand threats and execrations againſt the maſter, if he ſhould dare to reclaim it.

Sophron

Sophron was not ſo far removed as to eſcape the ſight of the indignity which was offered him. He followed the troop with ſo much ſwiftneſs, that it was not long before he overtook the ſoldier who was bearing away his friend, and, from his load, marched rather behind the reſt. When Sophron approached him, he accoſted him in the gentleſt manner, and beſought him, in words that might have touched any one but a ſavage, to reſtore his favourite. He even offered, when he found nothing elſe would avail, to purchaſe back his own property with ſomething of greater value. But the barbarous ſoldier, inured to ſcenes of miſery, and little accuſtomed to yield to human entreaties, only laughed at his complaints, and loaded him with additional inſults. At length, he began to be tired with his importunities, and, drawing his ſword, and waving it before the eyes of Sophron, threatened that, if he did not depart immediately, he would uſe him as he intended to do the lamb. And do you think,

anſwered

anſwered Sophron, that, while I have an arm to lift, or a drop of blood in my veins, I will ſuffer you, or any man, to rob me of what I value more than life? The ſoldier, exaſperated at ſuch an inſolent reply, as he termed it, aimed a blow at Sophron with his ſword, which he turned aſide with a ſtick he held in his hand, ſo that it glanced inoffenſively down; and before he could recover the uſe of his weapon, Sophron, who was infinitely ſtronger, cloſed in with him, wreſted it out of his hands, and hurled him roughly to the ground. Some of the comrades of the vanquiſhed ſoldier came in an inſtant to his aſſiſtance, and, without inquiring into the merits of the cauſe, drew their ſwords, and began to aſſail the undaunted young man. But he, brandiſhing the weapon which he had juſt ſeized, appeared ready to defend himſelf with ſo much ſtrength and courage, that they did not chooſe to come too near. While they were thus engaged, the officer, who had turned back at the firſt noiſe of the affray,

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proached, and, ordering his men to deſiſt, inquired into the occaſion of the conteſt. Sophron then recounted, with ſo much modeſty and reſpect, the indignities and inſults he had received, and the unprovoked attack of the ſoldier, which had obliged him to defend his own life, that the officer, who had a real reſpect for courage, was charmed with the behaviour of the young man. He therefore reproved his men for their diſorderly manners, praiſed the intrepidity of Sophron, and ordered his lamb to be reſtored to him, with which he joyfully departed.

Sophron was ſcarcely out of ſight, when Tigranes, who was then by accident returning from the chaſe, met the ſame party upon their march. Their military attire and glittering arms inſtantly ſtruck his mind with admiration. He ſtopped to gaze upon them as they paſſed; and the officer, who remarked the martial air and well-proportioned limbs of Tigranes, entered into converſation with him, and made him the ſame pro-

propoſals which he had before done to Sophron. Such incentives were irreſiſtible to a vain and ambitious mind: the young man in an inſtant forgot his friends, his country, and his parents, and marched away with all the pleaſure that ſtrong preſumption and aſpiring hopes could raiſe. Nor was it long before he had an opportunity of ſignalizing his intrepidity. Aſia was at that time overrun by numerous bands of ſavage warriors under different and independent chiefs. That country, which has in every age been celebrated for the mildneſs of the climate and the fertility of the ſoil, ſeems to be deſtined to groan under all the horrors of eternal ſervitude. Whether theſe effects are merely produced by fortune, or whether the natural advantages it enjoys have a neceſſary tendency to ſoften the minds of the inhabitants to ſloth and effeminacy, it is certain that the people of Aſia have in general been the unreſiſting prey of every invader. At this time ſeveral fierce and barbarous nations had broken in upon its territory; and, after covering its fertile

plains

plains with carnage and deſolation, were contending with each other for the ſuperiority.

Under the moſt enterpriſing of theſe rival chiefs was Tigranes now enrolled, and in the very firſt engagement at which he was preſent, he gave ſuch uncommon proofs of valour, that he was diſtinguiſhed by the general with marks of particular regard, and became the admiration of all his comrades. Under the banners of this adventurous warrior did Tigranes toil with various fortunes, during the ſpace of many years: ſometimes victorious in the fight, ſometimes baffled; at one time crowned with conqueſt and glory, at another beſet with dangers, covered with wounds, and hunted like a wild beaſt through rocks and foreſts. Yet ſtill the native courage of his temper ſuſtained his ſpirits, and kept him firm in the profeſſion which he had choſen. At length, in a deciſive battle, in which the chieftain under whom Tigranes had enliſted contended with the moſt powerful of his rivals, he had the honour of retrieving the victory, when his

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own party ſeemed totally routed; and, after having penetrated the thickeſt ſquadrons of the enemy, to kill their general with his own hand. From this moment he ſeemed to be in poſſeſſion of all that his ambition could deſire. He was appointed general of all the troops, under the chief himſelf, whoſe repeated victories had rendered him equal in power to the moſt celebrated monarchs. Nor did his fortune ſtop even here; for after a number of ſucceſſive battles, in which his party were generally victorious by his experience and intrepidity, he was, upon the unexpected death of the chief, unanimouſly choſen by the whole nation to ſucceed him.

In the mean time Sophron, free from envy, avarice, or ambition, purſued the natural impulſe of his character, and contented himſelf with a life of virtuous obſcurity. He paſſed his time in rural labours, in watching his flocks, and in attending with all the duty of an affectionate child upon his aged parents. Every morning he roſe with the

ſun, and ſpreading his innocent arms to Heaven, thanked that Being which has created all nature, for the continuance of life and health, and all the bleſſings he enjoyed. His piety and virtue were rewarded with every thing which a temperate and rational mind can aſk. All his rural labours ſucceeded in the ampleſt manner; his flocks were the faireſt, the moſt healthy and numerous of the diſtrict; he was loved and eſteemed by the youth of the neighbourhood, and equally reſpected by the aged, who pointed him out as the example of every virtue to their families. But what was more dear than all the reſt to ſuch a mind as Sophron's, was to ſee himſelf the joy, the comfort, and ſupport of his parents, who frequently embraced him with tears, and ſupplicated the Deity to reward ſuch duty and affection with all his choiceſt bleſſings.

Nor was his humanity confined to his own ſpecies; the innocent inhabitants of the foreſt were ſafe from the purſuit of Sophron, and all that lived under his protection were

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ſure to meet with diſtinguiſhed tenderneſs. It is enough, ſaid Sophron, that the innocent ſheep ſupplies me with his fleece, to form my winter garments, and defend me from the cold; I will not bereave him of his little life, nor ſtop his harmleſs gambols on the green, to gratify a guilty ſenſuality. It is ſurely enough that the ſtately heifer affords me copious ſtreams of pure and wholeſome food; I will not arm my hand againſt her innocent exiſtence; I will not pollute myſelf with her blood, nor tear her warm and panting fleſh with a cruelty that we abhor even in ſavage beaſts. More wholeſome, more adapted to human life are the ſpontaneous fruits which liberal nature produces for the ſuſtenance of man, or which the earth affords to recompenſe his labours.

Here the intereſt and concern which had been long viſible in Tommy's face could no longer be repreſſed, and tears began to trickle down his cheeks. What is the matter, my darling, ſaid his mother, what is there in the account of this young man that

ſo deeply intereſts and affects you?—Alas! ſaid Tommy, mamma, it reminds me of poor Harry Sandford; juſt ſuch another good young man will he be, when he is as old as Sophron; and I, and I, added he, ſobbing, am juſt ſuch another worthleſs, ungrateful wretch as Tigranes. But Tigranes, ſaid Mrs. Merton, you ſee, became a great and powerful man, while Sophron remained only a poor and ignorant ſhepherd. What does that ſignify, mamma? ſaid Tommy. For my part, I begin to find that it is not always the greateſt people that are the beſt or happieſt; and as to ignorance, I cannot think that Sophron, who underſtood his duty ſo well to his parents, and to God, and to all the world, could be called ignorant, and very likely he could read and write better than Tigranes, in ſpite of all his pomp and grandeur; for I am ſure there is not one of the young gentlemen that went home to-day, that reads as well as Harry Sandford, or has half his underſtanding. Mr. Merton could hardly help ſmiling at Tommy's conjecture

jecture about Sophron's reading; but he felt the greateſt pleaſure at ſeeing ſuch a change in his ſentiments, and looking at him with more cordiality than he had done before, he told him that he was very happy to find him ſo ſenſible of his faults, and hoped he would be equally ready to amend them. Miſs Simmons then continued her narrative:

If Sophron ever permitted himſelf to ſhed the blood of living creatures, it was of thoſe ferocious animals that wage continual war with every other ſpecies. Amid the mountains which he inhabited, there were rugged cliffs and inacceſſible caverns, which afforded retreat to wolves, and bears, and tigers. Sometimes, amid the ſtorms and ſnows of winter, they felt themſelves pinched by hunger, and fell with almoſt irreſiſtible fury upon the neareſt flocks and herds. Not only ſheep and oxen were ſlaughtered in theſe dreadful and unexpected attacks, but even the ſhepherds themſelves were frequently the victims of their rage. If there was time to aſſemble for

their defence, the boldeſt of the youth would frequently ſeize their arms, and give battle to the invaders. In this warfare, which was equally juſt and honourable, Sophron was always foremoſt; his unequalled ſtrength and courage made all the youth adopt him as their leader, and march with confidence under his command. And ſo ſucceſsful were his expeditions, that he always returned loaded with the ſkins of vanquiſhed enemies, and, by his vigilance and intrepidity, at length either killed or drove away moſt of the beaſts from whom any danger was to be feared.

It happened one day that Sophron had been following the chaſe of a wolf which had made ſome depredations upon the flocks, and, in the ardour of his purſuit, was ſeparated from all his companions. He was too well acquainted with the roughеſt parts of the neighbouring mountains, and too indifferent to danger, to be diſturbed at this circumſtance; he therefore followed his flying foe with ſo much impetuoſity, that he completely loſt every track and mark

with

with which he was acquainted. As it is difficult, in a wild and uncultivated diſtrict, to find the path again when once it is loſt, Sophron only wandered the farther from his home the more he endeavoured to return. He found himſelf bewildered and entangled in a dreary wilderneſs, where he was every inſtant ſtopped by torrents that tumbled from the neighbouring cliffs, or in danger of ſlipping down precipices of an immenſe height. He was alone, in the midſt of a gloomy foreſt, where human induſtry had never penetrated, nor the woodman's axe been heard, ſince the moment of its creation: to add to his diſtreſs, the ſetting ſun diſappeared in the weſt, and the ſhades of night gathered gradually round, accompanied with the roar of ſavage beaſts. Sophron found himſelf beſet with terrors, but his ſoul was incapable of fear; he poized his javelin in his hand, and forced his way through every oppoſition, till at length, with infinite difficulty, he diſengaged himſelf from the foreſt, juſt as the laſt glimmer

of light was yet viſible in the ſkies. But it was in vain that he had thus eſcaped; he caſt his eyes around, but could diſcern nothing but an immenſe tract of country, rough with rocks and overhung with foreſts, but deſtitute of every mark of cultivation or inhabitants. He however purſued his way along the ſide of the mountain till he deſcended into a pleaſant valley, free from trees and watered by a winding ſtream. Here he was going to repoſe for the remainder of the night, under the crag of an impending rock, when a riſing gleam of light darted ſuddenly into the ſkies from a conſiderable diſtance, and attracted his curioſity. Sophron looked towards the quarter whence it came, and plainly diſcerned that it was a fire, kindled either by ſome benighted traveller like himſelf, or by ſome leſs innocent wanderers of the dark. He determined to approach the light, but knowing the unſettled ſtate of all the neighbouring diſtricts, he thought it prudent to advance with caution. He there-

therefore made a conſiderable circuit, and by clambering along the higher grounds, diſcovered an hanging wood, under whoſe thick covert he approached without being diſcovered, within a little diſtance of the fire. He then perceived that a party of ſoldiers were repoſing round a flaming pile of wood, and carouſing at their eaſe; all about was ſtrewn the plunder which they had accumulated in their march, and in the midſt was ſeated a venerable old man, accompanied by a beautiful young woman. Sophron eaſily comprehended by the dejection of their countenances, and the tears which trickled down the maiden's cheeks, as well as by the inſolence with which they were treated, that they were priſoners. The virtuous indignation of his temper was inſtantly excited, and he determined to attempt their deliverance. But this, in ſpite of all his intrepidity, he perceived was no eaſy matter to accompliſh. He was alone and weakly armed; his enemies, though not numerous, too many for him to flatter him-

ſelf with any rational hope of ſucceſs by open force; and ſhould he make a fruitleſs effort, he might raſhly throw his life away, and only aggravate the diſtreſſes he ſought to cure. With this conſideration he reſtrained his natural impetuoſity, and, at length, determined to attempt by ſtratagem, what he thought could ſcarcely be performed by force. He therefore ſilently withdrew, and ſkirted the ſide of the wood which had concealed him, carefully remarking every circumſtance of the way, till he had aſcended a mountain, which immediately fronted the camp of the ſoldiers, at no conſiderable diſtance. He happened to have by his ſide a kind of battle-axe which they uſe in the chaſe of bears; with this he applied himſelf to lopping the branches of trees, collecting, at the ſame time, all the fallen ones he could find, till, in a ſhort time, he had reared ſeveral piles of wood upon the moſt conſpicuous part of the mountain, and full in the view of the ſoldiers. He then eaſily kindled a blaze by rubbing

two decayed branches together, and in an inſtant all the piles were blazing with ſo many ſtreams of light, that the neighbouring hills and foreſts were illuminated with the gleam. Sophron knew the nature of man, always prone to ſudden impreſſions of fear and terror, more particularly amid the obſcurity of the night, and promiſed himſelf the ampleſt ſucceſs from his ſtratagem. In the mean time he haſtened back with all the ſpeed he could uſe, till he reached the very wood where he had lurked before; he then raiſed his voice, which was naturally loud and clear, and ſhouted ſeveral times ſucceſſively with all his exertion. An hundred echoes from the neighbouring cliffs and caverns returned the ſound, with a reverberation that made it appear like the noiſe of a mighty ſquadron. The ſoldiers, who had been alarmed by the ſudden blaze of ſo many fires, which they attributed to a numerous band of troops, were now impreſſed with ſuch a panic, that they fled in confuſion. They imagined themſelves

ſurrounded by their enemies, who were burſting in on every ſide, and fled with ſo much precipitation, that they were diſperſed in an inſtant, and left the priſoners to themſelves. Sophron, who ſaw from a ſmall diſtance all their motions, did not wait for them to be undeceived, but running to the ſpot they had abandoned, explained in a few words to the trembling and amazed captives the nature of his ſtratagem, and exhorted them to fly with all the ſwiftneſs they were able to exert. Few entreaties were neceſſary to prevail upon them to comply; they therefore aroſe and followed Sophron, who led them a conſiderable way up into the mountains, and when he thought them out of the immediate danger of purſuit, they ſheltered themſelves in a rocky cavern, and determined there to wait for the light of the morning.

When they were thus in a place of ſafety, the venerable old man ſeized the hand of Sophron, and, bedewing it with his tears, gave way to the ſtrong emotions of gratitude

which

which overwhelmed his mind. Generous youth, ſaid he, I know not by what extraordinary fortune you have thus been able to effect our deliverance, when we imagined ourſelves out of the reach of human ſuccour; but, if the uniform gratitude and affection of two human beings, who perhaps are not entirely unworthy your regard, can be any recompence for ſuch a diſtinguiſhed act of virtue, you may command our lives, and employ them in your ſervice.

Father, anſwered Sophron, you infinitely over-rate the merits of the ſervice which chance has enabled me to perform. I am but little acquainted with my fellow-creatures, as having always inhabited theſe mountains; but I cannot conceive that any other man who had been witneſs to your diſtreſs would have refuſed to attempt your reſcue: and, as to all the reſt, the obſcurity of the night, and peculiarity of the ſituation, rendered it a work of little difficulty or danger. Sophron then recounted to his new friends the accident which had brought

brought him to that unfrequented ſpot, and made him an unperceived witneſs of their captivity; he alſo explained the nature of the ſtratagem, by which, alone and unſupported, he had been enabled to diſperſe their enemies. He added, that if he appeared to have any little merit in their eyes, he ſhould be amply recompenſed by being admitted to their friendſhip and confidence. With theſe mutual profeſſions of eſteem they thought it prudent to terminate a converſation, which, however agreeable, was not entirely free from danger, as ſome of their late oppreſſors might happen to diſtinguiſh their voices, and, thus directed to their lurking-place, exact a ſevere revenge for the terrors they had undergone.

With the firſt ray of morning the three companions aroſe, and Sophron, leading them along the ſkirts of the mountains, where buſhes and bruſh-wood concealed them from obſervation, and ſtill following the windings of the river as a guide, they at length came to a cultivated ſpot, though deſerted

deſerted by its inhabitants from the fear of the party they had lately eſcaped. Here they made a ſlight and haſty repaſt upon ſome coarſe proviſions which they found, and inſtantly ſtruck again into the woods, which they judged ſafer than the plain. But Sophron fortunately recollected that he had formerly viſited this village with his father, while yet a child, and before the country had ſuffered the rage of barbarous invaſions. It was a long day's march from home, but, by exerting all their force, they at length arrived, through rough and ſecret paths, at the hoſpitable cottage where Sophron and his parents dwelt. Here they were joyfully received, as the long abſence of the young man had much alarmed his parents, and made all the hamlet anxious concerning his ſafety. That night they comfortably repoſed in a place of ſafety, and the next morning, after a plentiful but coarſe repaſt, the father of Sophron again congratulated his gueſts upon their fortu-

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nate eſcape, and entreated them to let him hear the hiſtory of their misfortunes.

I can refuſe nothing, ſaid the venerable ſtranger, to perſons to whom I am under ſuch extraordinary obligations, although the hiſtory of my life is ſhort and ſimple, and contains little worthy to be recited. My name is Chares, and I was born in one of the maritime cities of Aſia, of opulent parents, who died while I was yet a youth. The loſs of my parents, to whom I was moſt affectionately attached, made ſo ſtrong an impreſſion upon my mind, that I determined to ſeek relief in travel, and, for that purpoſe, ſold my paternal eſtate, the price of which I converted into money and jewels, as being moſt portable. My father had been a man diſtinguiſhed for his knowledge and abilities, and from him I imbibed an early deſire of improvement, which has always been my greateſt comfort and ſupport. The firſt place, therefore, which I viſited was Egypt, a country renowned in

every

every age for its invention of all the arts which contribute to ſupport or adorn human life. There I reſided ſeveral years, giving up my time to the ſtudy of philoſophy, and to the converſation of the many eminent men who reſorted thither from all the regions of the world. This country is one immenſe plain, divided by the Nile, which is one of the nobleſt rivers in the world, and pours its tide along the middle of its territory. Every year, at a particular ſeaſon, the ſtream begins gradually to ſwell, with ſuch an increaſe of waters, that at length it riſes over its banks, and the whole extent of Egypt becomes an immenſe lake, where buildings, temples, and cities, appear as floating upon the inundation. Nor is this event a ſubject of dread to the inhabitants: on the contrary, the overflowing of their river is a day of public rejoicing to all the natives, which they celebrate with ſongs and dances, and every ſymptom of extravagant joy. Nor is this to be wondered at, when you are informed, that this inundation renders the ſoil

it covers the moſt abundant in the world. Whatever land is covered by the waters receives ſuch an increaſe of fertility as never to diſappoint the hopes of the induſtrious huſbandman. The inſtant the waters have retired, the farmer returns to his fields, and begins the operations of agriculture. Theſe labours are not very difficult in a ſoft and yielding ſlime, ſuch as the river leaves behind it. The ſeeds are ſown, and vegetate with inconceivable rapidity, and, in a few weeks, an abundant harveſt of every kind of grain covers the land. For this reaſon, all the neceſſaries of life are eaſily procured by the innumerable multitudes which inhabit the country. Nor is the climate leſs favourable than the ſoil, for here an eternal ſpring and ſummer ſeem to have fixed their abode. No froſt, or ſnow, is ever known to chill the atmoſphere, which is always perfumed with the ſmell of aromatic plants that grow on every ſide, and bring on a pleaſing forgetfulneſs of human care. But, alas! theſe bleſſings, great as they may appear,

produce

produce the effect of curſes upon the inhabitants. The eaſe and plenty which they enjoy enervate their manners, and deſtroy all vigour both of body and mind. No one is here inflamed with the ſacred love of his country, or of public liberty; no one is inured to arms, or taught to prefer his honour to his life. The great buſineſs of exiſtence is an inglorious indolence, a lethargy of mind, and a continual ſuſpenſe from all exertion. The very children catch the contagion from their parents; they are inſtructed in every effeminate art: to dance in ſoft, unmanly attitudes, to modulate their voice by muſical inſtruments, and to adjuſt the floating drapery of their dreſs; theſe are the arts in which both ſexes are inſtructed from their infancy. But no one is taught to wield the arms of men, to tame the noble ſteeds in which the country abounds, to obſerve his rank in war, or to bear the indiſpenſable hardſhips of a military life. Hence this celebrated country, which has been in every age the admiration of mankind,

kind, is deſtined to the moſt degrading ſervitude. A few thouſand diſciplined troops are ſufficient to hold the many millions it contains in bondage, under which they groan, without ever conceiving the deſign of vindicating their natural rights by arms.—Unhappy people! exclaimed Sophron, how uſeleſs to them are all the bleſſings of their climate! How much rather would I inhabit the ſtormy top of Lebanon, amid eternal ſnows and barrenneſs, than wallow in the vile ſenſuality of ſuch a country, or breathe an air infected by its vices!

Chares was charmed with the generous indignation of Sophron, and thus continued:—I was of the ſame opinion with yourſelf, and therefore determined to leave a country which all its natural advantages could not render agreeable, when I underſtood the manners of its inhabitants. But, before I quitted that part of the globe, my curioſity led me to viſit the neighbouring tribes of Arabia, a nation bordering upon the Egyptians, but as different in ſpirits

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and manners as the hardy ſhepherds of theſe mountains from the effeminate natives of the plains. Egypt is bounded on one ſide by the ſea; on every other, it is ſurrounded by immenſe plains or gentle eminences, which being beyond the reach of the fertilizing inundations of the Nile, have been, beyond all memory, converted into waſte and barren ſands by the exceſſive heat of the ſun. I therefore made preparations for my journey, and hired a guide, who was to furniſh me with beaſts of burden, and accompany me acroſs thoſe dreary deſerts. We accordingly began our march, mounted each upon a camel, which are found much more uſeful than horſes in ſuch a burning climate.

Indeed, ſaid Tommy here to Mr. Barlow, I am ſorry to interrupt the ſtory, but I ſhall be much obliged to you, ſir, if you will inform me what kind of an animal a camel is.

The camel, anſwered Mr. Barlow, is chiefly found in thoſe burning climates which

which you have heard deſcribed. His height is very great, riſing to fourteen or fifteen feet, reckoning to the top of his head. His legs are long and ſlender, his body not large, and his neck of an amazing length. This animal is found in no part of the world that we are acquainted with, wild or free, but the whole race is enſlaved by man, and brought up to drudgery from the firſt moment of their exiſtence. As ſoon as he is born, they ſeize him, and force him to recline upon the ground, with his legs doubled up under his belly. To keep him in this attitude they extend a piece of canvas over his body, and fix it to the ground by laying heavy weights upon the edge. In this manner he is tutored to obedience, and taught to kneel down at the orders of his maſter, and receive the burdens which he is deſtined to tranſport. In his temper he is gentle and tractable, and his patience in bearing thirſt and hunger is ſuperior to that of any animal we are acquainted with. He is driven acroſs the burning

burning deſerts loaded with the merchandiſe of thoſe countries, and frequently does not find even water to quench his thirſt for ſeveral days. As to his food, it is nothing but the few herbs which are found in the leaſt barren parts of the deſerts, and prickly buſhes, upon which he browzes as a delicacy: ſometimes he does not find even theſe for many days, yet purſues his journey with a degree of patience which is hardly credible.

We mounted our camels, continued Chares, and ſoon had reached the confines of the fertile plains of Egypt. The way, as we proceeded, grew ſenſibly more dreary and diſagreeable, yet was ſometimes varied with little tufts of trees and ſcanty patches of herbage. But theſe at length entirely diſappeared, and nothing was ſeen on every ſide but an immenſe extent of barren ſands, deſtitute of vegetation, and parched by the continual heat of the ſun. No ſound was heard to interrupt the dreary ſilence that reigned around, no traces of inhabitants perceivable, and the gloomy uniformity of the

the proſpect inſpired the ſoul with melancholy. In the mean time, the ſun ſeemed to ſhoot down perpendicular rays upon our heads, without a cloud to mitigate his violence. I felt a burning fever take poſſeſſion of my body; my tongue was ſcorched with intolerable heat, and it was in vain I endeavoured to moiſten my mouth with repeated draughts of water. At night we came to a little riſing ground, at the foot of which we perceived ſome aquatic herbs and a ſmall quantity of muddy water, of which our camels took prodigious draughts. Here we ſpread our tents, and encamped for the night. With the morning we purſued our journey, but had not proceeded far before we ſaw a cloud of duſt that ſeemed to riſe along the deſert; and, as we approached nearer, we eaſily diſtinguiſhed the glitter of arms that reflected the riſing ſun. This was a band of the Arabians that had diſcovered us, and came to know our intentions. As they advanced, they ſpurred their horſes, which are the moſt fleet and excellent in the world,

world, and bounded along the desert with the lightness of an antelope; at the same time they brandished their lances, and seemed prepared alike for war or peace. But when they saw that we had neither the intention nor the power to commit hostilities, they stopped their coursers at the distance of a few paces from us; and he, that appeared the chief, advanced, and, with a firm but mild tone of voice, inquired into the reason of our coming. It was then that I took the liberty of addressing him in his own language, to which I had for some time applied myself before my journey. I explained to him the curiosity which led me to observe in person the manners of a people, who are celebrated over the whole world, for having preserved their native simplicity unaltered and their liberty unviolated, amid the revolutions which agitate all the neighbouring nations. I then offered to him the loading of my camel, which I had brought, not as being worthy his acceptance, but as a slight testimony of my regard; and con-

cluded with remarking, that the fidelity of the Arabians in obſerving their engagements was unimpeached in a ſingle inſtance; and therefore, relying upon the integrity of my own intentions, I had come a painful journey, unarmed, and almoſt alone, to put myſelf into their power, and demand the ſacred rights of hoſpitality.

While I was thus ſpeaking, he looked at me with a penetration that ſeemed to read into my very ſoul; and when I had finiſhed, he extended his arm with a ſmile of benevolence, and welcomed me to their tribe; telling me at the ſame time, that they admitted me as their gueſt, and received me with the arms of friendſhip: that their method of life, like their manners, was coarſe and ſimple, but that I might conſider myſelf as ſafer in their tents, and more removed from violence or treachery, than in the crowded cities which I had left. The reſt of the ſquadron then approached, and all ſaluted me as a friend and brother. We then ſtruck off acroſs the deſert, and after a few hours

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march approached the encampment where they had left their wives and children.

This people is the moſt ſingular, and in many reſpects the moſt admirable of all that inhabit this globe of earth. All other nations are ſubject to revolutions and the various turns of fortune. Sometimes they wage ſucceſsful wars; ſometimes they improve in the arts of peace; now they are great and reverenced by their neighbours; and now, inſulted and deſpiſed, they ſuffer all the miſeries of ſervitude. The Arabians alone have never been known to vary in the ſmalleſt circumſtance either of their internal policy or external ſituation. They inhabit a climate which would be intolerable to the reſt of the human ſpecies for its burning heat, and a ſoil which refuſes to furniſh any of the neceſſaries of life. Hence, they neither plough the earth, nor ſow, nor depend upon corn, for their ſuſtenance, nor are acquainted with any of the mechanic arts. They live chiefly upon the milk of their herds and flocks, and ſometimes eat

their fleſh. Theſe burning deſerts are ſtretched out to an immenſe extent on every ſide, and theſe they conſider as their common country, without having any fixed or permanent place of abode. Arid and barren as are theſe wilds in general, there are various ſpots which are more productive than the reſt. Here are found ſupplies of water and ſome appearances of vegetation; and here the Arabians encamp till they have exhauſted the ſpontaneous products of the ſoil. Beſides, they vary their place of reſidence with the different ſeaſons of the year. When they are in perfect friendſhip with their neighbours, they advance to the very edges of the deſert, and find more ample ſupplies of moiſture and herbage. If they are attacked or moleſted, the whole tribe is in motion in an inſtant, and ſeeks a refuge in their impenetrable receſſes. Other nations are involved in various purſuits of war, or government, or commerce; they have made a thouſand inventions of luxury neceſſary to their welfare; and the enjoyment

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of theſe they call happineſs. The Arab is ignorant of all theſe things, or, if he knows them, deſpiſes their poſſeſſion. All his wants, his paſſions, his deſires, terminate in one object, and that object is the preſervation of his liberty. For this purpoſe he contents himſelf with a bare ſufficiency of the coarſeſt and ſimpleſt food; and the ſmall quantity of clothing which he requires in ſuch a climate is fabricated by the women of the tribe, who milk the cattle and prepare the food of their huſbands, and require no other pleaſures than the pleaſing intereſt of domeſtic cares. They have a breed of horſes ſuperior to any in the reſt of the globe for gentleneſs, patience, and unrivalled ſwiftneſs. This is the particular paſſion and pride of the Arabian tribes. They are neceſſary to them in their warlike expeditions and in their courſes along the deſerts. If they are attacked, they mount their ſteeds, who bear them with the rapidity of a tempeſt, to avenge their injuries; or ſhould they be overmatched in fight, they ſoon tranſport them beyond the poſſi-

bility of purſuit. For this reaſon the proudeſt monarchs and greateſt conquerors have in vain endeavoured to ſubdue them. Troops accuſtomed to the plenty of a cultivated country are little able to purſue theſe winged warriors, over the wide extent of their ſandy waſtes. Oppreſt with heat, fainting for want of water, and ſpent with the various difficulties of the way, the moſt numerous armies have been deſtroyed in ſuch attempts; and thoſe that ſurvived the obſtacles of nature, were eaſily overcome by the repeated attacks of the valiant natives.

While I was in this country, I was myſelf witneſs to an embaſſy that was ſent from a neighbouring prince, who imagined the fame of his exploits had ſtruck the Arabians with terror, and diſpoſed them to ſubmiſſion. The ambaſſador was introduced to the chief of the tribe, a venerable old man, undiſtinguiſhed by any mark of oſtentation from the reſt, who received him ſitting croſs-legged at the door of his tent. He then began to ſpeak, and, in a long and ſtudied harangue, deſcribed

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the power of his maſter, the invincible courage of his armies, the vaſt profuſion of arms, of warlike engines, and military ſtores; and concluded with a demand that the Arabians ſhould ſubmit to acknowledge him as their lord, and pay a yearly tribute. At this proud ſpeech, the younger part of the tribe began to frown with indignation and claſh their weapons in token of defiance; but the chief himſelf, with a calm and manly compoſure, made this reply: I expected from the maturity of your age, and the gravity of your countenance, to have heard a rational diſcourſe, befitting you to propoſe and us to hear. When you dwelt ſo long upon the power of your maſter, I alſo imagined that he had ſent to us to propoſe a league of friendſhip and alliance, ſuch as might become equals, and bind man more cloſely to his fellows. In this caſe the Arabians, although they neither want the aſſiſtance, nor fear the attacks of any king or nation, would gladly have conſented; becauſe it has been always their favourite maxim, neither to leave inju-

ries unpuniſhed, nor to be outdone in kindneſs and hoſpitality. But ſince you have come thus far to deliver a meſſage, which muſt needs be diſagreeable to the ears of free-born men, who acknowledge no ſuperior upon earth, you may thus report the ſentiments of the Arabians to him that ſent you.

You may tell him, that, as to the land which we inhabit, it is neither the gift of him nor any of his forefathers; we hold it from our anceſtors, who received it in turn from theirs, by the common laws of nature, which has adapted particular countries and ſoils not only to man, but to all the various animals which ſhe has produced. If, therefore, your king imagines that he has a right to retain the country which he and his people now inhabit, by the ſame tenure do the Arabians hold the ſovereignty of theſe barren ſands; where the bones of their anceſtors have been buried, even from the firſt creation of the world. But you have deſcribed to us in pompous language,

the extraordinary power and riches of your king: according to you, he not only commands numerous and well-appointed troops of warlike men, furniſhed with every ſpecies of military ſtores, but he alſo poſſeſſes immenſe heaps of gold, ſilver, and other precious commodities, and his country affords him an inexhauſtible ſupply of corn and oil and wine, and all the other conveniences of life. If, therefore, this repreſentation be falſe, you muſt appear a vain and deſpicable babbler, who, being induced by no ſufficient reaſon, have come hither of your own accord to amuſe us, a plain and ſimple race of men, with ſpecious tales and fables; but, if your words be true, your king muſt be equally unjuſt and fooliſh, who, already poſſeſſing all theſe advantages, doth ſtill inſatiably graſp after more; and enjoying ſo many good things with eaſe and ſecurity to himſelf, will rather put them all to the hazard, than repreſs the vain deſires of his own intolerable avarice. As to the tribute which you

have demanded, what you have already ſeen of the Arabians and their country may afford you a ſufficient anſwer. You ſee that we have neither cities, nor fields, nor rivers, nor wine, nor oil; gold and ſilver are equally unknown among us; and the Arabians, abandoning all theſe things to other men, have, at the ſame time, delivered themſelves from the neceſſity of being ſlaves, which is the general law by which all other mortals retain their poſſeſſions. We have, therefore, nothing which we can ſend as a tribute but the ſands of theſe our deſerts, and the arrows and lances with which we have hitherto defended them from all invaders. If theſe are treaſures worthy of his acceptance, he may lead his conquering troops to take poſſeſſion of our country. But he will find men who are not ſoftened by luxury, or vanquiſhed by their own vices; men, who prize their liberty at a dearer rate than all other mortals do their riches or their lives; and to whom diſhonour is more formidable than wounds and death.

death. If he can vanquiſh ſuch men, it will, however, become his prudence to reflect, whether he can vanquiſh the obſtacles which nature herſelf has oppoſed to his ambition. It attempting to paſs our deſerts, he will have to ſtruggle with famine and conſuming thirſt; from which no enemy has hitherto eſcaped, even when he has failed to periſh by the arrows of the Arabians.

Happy and generous people, exclaimed Sophron, how well do they deſerve the liberty they enjoy! With ſuch ſentiments they need not fear the attack of kings or conquerors. It is the vices of men, and not the weakneſs of their nature, that baſely enſlave them to their equals; and he that prizes liberty beyond a few contemptible pleaſures of his ſenſes, may be certain that no human force can ever bereave him of ſo great a good.

Such ſentiments, replied Chares, convince me that I have not made a falſe eſtimate of the inhabitants of theſe moun-

tainous diſtricts. It is for this reaſon that I have been ſo particular in the deſcription of Egypt and Arabia. I wiſhed to know whether the general ſpirit of indolence and puſillanimity had infected the hardy inhabitants of Lebanon: but from the generous enthuſiaſm which animates your countenance at the recital of noble actions, as well as from what I have experienced you are capable of attempting, I truſt that theſe ſolitary ſcenes are uninfected with the vices that have deluged the reſt of Aſia, and bent its inhabitants to the yoke.

Here the impatience of Tommy, which had been increaſing a conſiderable time, could no longer be reſtrained, and he could not help interrupting the ſtory, by addreſſing Mr. Barlow thus:

TOMMY.

Sir, you will give me leave to aſk you a queſtion?

Mr. BARLOW.

As many as you chooſe.

TOMMY.

TOMMY.

In all these stories which I have heard, it seems as if those nations, that have little or nothing, are more good-natured, and better, and braver, than those that have a great deal.

Mr. BARLOW.

This is indeed sometimes the case.

TOMMY.

But then, why should it not be the case here, as well as in other places? Are all the poor in this country better than the rich?

It should seem, answered Mr. Barlow smiling, as if you were of that opinion.

TOMMY.

Why so, sir?

Mr. BARLOW.

Because, whatever you want to have done, I observe, that you always address yourself to the poor, and not to the rich.

TOMMY.

Yes, sir, but that is a different case. The poor are used to do many things which the rich never do.

Mr.

Mr. BARLOW.

Are thoſe things uſeful, or not uſeful?

TOMMY.

Why, to be ſure, many of them are extremely uſeful; for, ſince I have acquired ſo much knowledge, I find they cultivate the ground to raiſe corn, and build houſes, and hammer iron, which is ſo neceſſary to make every thing we uſe; beſides feeding cattle, and dreſſing our victuals, and waſhing our clothes, and, in ſhort, doing every thing which is neceſſary to be done.

Mr. BARLOW.

What, do the poor do all theſe things?

TOMMY.

Yes, indeed, or elſe they never would be done. For it would be a very ungenteel thing to labour at a forge like a blackſmith, or hold the plough like a farmer, or build an houſe like a bricklayer.

Mr. BARLOW.

And did not you build an houſe in my garden ſome little time ago?

TOMMY.

Tommy.

Yes, ſir; but that was only for my amuſement. It was not intended for any body to live in.

Mr. Barlow.

So you ſtill think it the firſt qualification of a gentleman never to do any thing uſeful; and he that does any thing with that deſign ceaſes to be a gentleman?

Tommy looked a little aſhamed at this, but he ſaid it was not ſo much his own opinion, as that of the other young gentlemen and ladies with whom he had converſed.

But, replied Mr. Barlow, you aſked juſt now which were the beſt, the rich or the poor; but if the poor provide food, and clothing, and houſes, and every thing elſe, not only for themſelves but for all the rich, while the rich do nothing at all, it muſt appear that the poor are better than the rich.

Tommy.

Yes, ſir; but then the poor do not act in that manner out of kindneſs, but becauſe they are obliged to it.

Mr.

Mr. BARLOW.

That, indeed, is a better argument than you ſometimes uſe. But tell me which ſet of people would you prefer, thoſe that are always doing uſeful things becauſe they are obliged to it, or thoſe who never do any thing uſeful at all?

TOMMY.

Indeed, ſir, I hardly know what to ſay; but when I aſked the queſtion, I did not ſo much mean the doing uſeful things.—But now I think on it, the rich do a great deal of good by buying the things of the poor, and giving them money in return.

Mr. BARLOW.

What is money?

TOMMY.

Money, ſir, money is——I believe little pieces of ſilver and gold, with an head upon them.

Mr. BARLOW.

And what is the uſe of theſe little pieces of ſilver and gold?

TOMMY,

TOMMY.

Indeed I do not know that they are of any uſe; but every body has agreed to take them, and therefore you may buy with them whatever you want.

Mr. BARLOW.

Then, according to your laſt account, the goodneſs of the rich conſiſts in taking from the poor houſes, clothes, and food, and giving them in return little bits of ſilver and gold, which are really good for nothing?

TOMMY.

Yes, ſir; but then the poor can take theſe pieces of money and purchaſe every thing which they want.

Mr. BARLOW.

You mean, that if a poor man has money in his pocket, he can always exchange it for clothes, or food, or any other neceſſary.

TOMMY.

Indeed I do, ſir.

Mr. BARLOW.

But who muſt he buy them of?—For, according to your account, the rich never pro-

duce

duce any of these things: therefore, the poor, if they want to purchase them, can only do it of each other.

TOMMY.

But, sir, I cannot think that is always the case; for, I have been along with my mamma to shops, where there were fine powdered gentlemen and ladies that sold things to other people, and livery servants, and young ladies that played upon the harpsichord like Miss Matilda.

Mr. BARLOW.

But, my good little friend, do you imagine that these fine powdered gentlemen and ladies made the things which they sold?

TOMMY.

That, sir, I cannot tell, but I should rather imagine not; for all the fine people I have ever seen are too much afraid of spoiling their clothes to work.

Mr. BARLOW.

All that they do, then, is to employ poorer persons to work for them, while they only sell what is produced by their labour.

So

So that ſtill you ſee we reach no farther than this; the rich do nothing and produce nothing, and the poor every thing that is really uſeful. Were there a whole nation of rich people, they would all be ſtarved like the Spaniard in the ſtory, becauſe no one would condeſcend to produce any thing: and this would happen in ſpite of all their money, unleſs they had neighbours who were poorer to ſupply them. But a nation that was poor might be induſtrious, and gradually ſupply themſelves with all they wanted; and then it would be of little conſequence whether they had pieces of metal with heads upon them or not.——But this converſation has laſted long enough at preſent, and, as you are now going to bed, I dare ſay Miſs Simmons will be ſo good as to defer the remainder of her ſtory until to-morrow.

The next day Tommy roſe before his father and mother, and, as his imagination had been forcibly acted on by the deſcription he had heard of the Arabian horſemen, he deſired his little horſe might be ſaddled, and

that William, his father's man, would attend him upon a ride. Unfortunately for Tommy, his vivacity was greater than his reaſon, and his taſte for imitation was continually leading him into ſome miſchief or misfortune. He had no ſooner been introduced into the acquaintance of genteel life, than he threw aſide all his former habits, and burnt to diſtinguiſh himſelf as a moſt accompliſhed young gentleman. He was now, in turn, ſickened and diſguſted with faſhionable affectation; and his mind, at leiſure for freſh impreſſions, was ready to catch at the firſt new object which occurred. The idea, therefore, which preſented itſelf to his mind, as ſoon as he opened his eyes, was that of being an Arabian horſeman. Nothing he imagined could equal the pleaſure of guiding a fiery ſteed over thoſe immenſe and deſolate waſtes which he had heard deſcribed. In the mean time, as the country where he wiſhed to exhibit was rather at too great a diſtance, he thought he might excite ſome applauſe even upon the common before his father's

father's houſe. Full of this idea, he roſe, put on his boots, and ſummoned William to attend him. William had been too much accuſtomed to humour all his caprices, to make any difficulty of obeying him; and, as he had often ridden out with his young maſter before, he did not foreſee the leaſt poſſible inconvenience. But the maternal care of Mrs. Merton had made it an indiſpenſable condition with her ſon, that he ſhould never preſume to ride with ſpurs, and ſhe had ſtrictly enjoined all the ſervants never to ſupply him with thoſe dangerous implements. Tommy had long murmured in ſecret at this prohibition, which ſeemed to imply a diſtruſt of his abilities in horſemanſhip, which ſenſibly wounded his pride. But, ſince he had taken it into his head to emulate the Arabs themſelves, and perhaps excel them in their own art, he conſidered it as no longer poſſible to endure the diſgrace. But, as he was no ſtranger to the ſtrict injunction which had been given to all the ſervants, he did not dare to make the experiment

periment of ſoliciting their aſſiſtance. While he was in this embarraſſment, a new and ſudden expedient preſented itſelf to his fertile genius, which he inſtantly reſolved to adopt. Tommy went to his mamma's maid, and, without difficulty, obtained from her a couple of the biggeſt pins, which he thruſt through the leather of his boots, and, thus accoutred, he mounted his horſe without ſuſpicion or obſervation. Tommy had not ridden far before he began to give vent to his reigning paſſion, and aſked William if he had ever ſeen an Arabian on horſeback. The anſwer of William ſufficiently proved his ignorance, which Tommy kindly undertook to remove by giving him a detail of all the particulars he had heard the preceding night; but, unfortunately, the eloquence of Tommy precipitated him into a dangerous experiment; for, juſt as he was deſcribing their rapid flight acroſs the deſerts, the intereſt of his ſubject ſo tranſported him, that he cloſed his legs upon his little horſe, and pricked him in ſo ſenſible a manner, that the poney, who

was

was not deficient in ſpirit, reſented the attack, and ſet off with him at a prodigious rate. William, when he ſaw his maſter thus burſt forth, was at a loſs whether to conſider it as an accident, or only an oratorical grace; but ſeeing the horſe hurrying along the roughest part of the common, while Tommy tugged in vain to reſtrain his efforts, he thought it neceſſary to endeavour to overtake, and therefore purſued him with all the ſpeed he could uſe. But the poney, whoſe blood ſeemed to be only the more inflamed by the violence of his own exertions, ran the faſter when he heard the trampling of another horſe behind him. In this manner did Tommy ſcamper over the common, while William purſued in vain; for, juſt as the ſervant thought he had reached his maſter, his horſe would puſh forward with ſuch rapidity as left his purſuer far behind. Tommy kept his ſeat with infinite addreſs, but he now began ſeriouſly to repent of his own ungovernable ambition, and would, with the greateſt pleaſure, have exchanged his own

ſpirited

ſpirited ſteed for the dulleſt aſs in England. The race had now endured a conſiderable time, and ſeemed to be no nearer to a concluſion, when, on a ſudden, the poney turned ſhort, upon an attempt of his maſter to ſtop him, and ruſhed precipitately into a large bog, or quagmire, which was full before him; here he made a momentary halt, and Tommy wiſely embraced the opportunity of letting himſelf ſlide off upon a ſoft and yielding bed of mire. The ſervant now came up to Tommy, and reſcued him from his diſagreeable ſituation, where, however, he had received no other damage than that of daubing himſelf all over. William had been at firſt very much frightened at the danger of his maſter; but when he ſaw that he had ſo luckily eſcaped all hurt, he could not help aſking him, with a ſmile, whether this too was a ſtroke of Arabian horſemanſhip. Tommy was a little provoked at this reflection upon his horſemanſhip; but, as he had now loſt ſomething of his irritability by repeated mortification, he wiſely repreſſed

his

his paſſion, and deſired William to catch his horſe, while he returned homewards on foot to warm himſelf. The ſervant, therefore, endeavoured to approach the poney, who, as if contented with the triumph he had obtained over his rider, was quietly feeding at a little diſtance; but, the inſtant William approached, he ſet off again at a violent rate, and ſeemed diſpoſed to lead him a ſecond chaſe, not inferior to the firſt.

In the mean time, Tommy walked penſively along the common, reflecting upon the various accidents which had befallen him, and the repeated diſappointments he had found in all his attempts to diſtinguiſh himſelf. While he was thus engaged, he overtook a poor and ragged figure, the ſingularity of whoſe appearance engaged his attention. It was a man of middle age, in a dreſs he had never ſeen before, with two poor children that ſeemed with difficulty to keep up with him, while he carried a third in his arms, whoſe pale, emaciated looks, ſufficiently declared diſeaſe and pain. The man had upon

his head a coarſe blue bonnet inſtead of an hat; he was wrapped round by a tattered kind of garment, ſtriped with various colours, and, at his ſide, hung down a long and formidable ſword. Tommy ſurveyed him with ſuch an earneſt obſervation, that at length the man took notice of it, and, bowing to him with the greateſt civility, ventured to aſk him if he had met with any accident, that he appeared in a diſorder which ſuited ſo little with his quality. Tommy was not a little pleaſed with the diſcernment of the man, that could diſtinguiſh his importance in ſpite of the dirtineſs of his clothes, and therefore mildly anſwered; No, friend, there is not much the matter. I have a little obſtinate horſe that ran away with me, and, after trying in vain to throw me down, he plunged into the middle of that great bog there, and ſo I jumped off for fear of being ſwallowed up, otherwiſe I ſhould ſoon have made him ſubmit; for I am uſed to ſuch things, and don't mind them in the leaſt. Here the child that the man was carrying

began to cry bitterly, and the father endeavoured to pacify him, but in vain. Poor thing, ſaid Tommy, he ſeems not to be well—I am heartily ſorry for him!—Alas, maſter! anſwered the man, he is not well, indeed; he has now a violent ague fit upon him, and I have not had a morſel of bread to give him, or any of the reſt, ſince yeſterday noon. Tommy was naturally generous, and now his mind was unuſually ſoftened by the remembrance of his own recent diſtreſſes; he therefore pulled a ſhilling out of his pocket, and gave it to the man, ſaying, Here, my honeſt friend, here is ſomething to buy your child ſome food, and I ſincerely wiſh he may ſoon recover. God bleſs your ſweet face! ſaid the man; you are the beſt friend I have ſeen this many a day; but for this kind aſſiſtance we might have been all loſt. He then, with many bows and thanks, ſtruck acroſs the common into a different path; and Tommy went forward, feeling a greater pleaſure at this little act of humanity than he had long been acquainted with among all the

fine acquaintance he had lately contracted. But he had walked a very little way with theſe reflections, before he met with a new adventure; a flock of ſheep was running with all the precipitation which fear could inſpire from the purſuit of a large dog; and juſt as Tommy approached, the dog had overtaken a lamb, and ſeemed diſpoſed to devour it. Tommy was naturally an enemy to all cruelty, and therefore running towards the dog, with more alacrity than prudence, he endeavoured to drive him from his prey. But the animal, who probably deſpiſed the diminutive ſize of his adverſary, after growling a little while and ſhowing his teeth, when he found that this was not ſufficient to deter him from intermeddling, entirely quitted the ſheep; and, making a ſudden ſpring, ſeized upon the ſkirt of Tommy's coat, which he ſhook with every expreſſion of rage. Tommy behaved with more intrepidity than could have been expected, for he neither cried out nor attempted to run, but made his utmoſt efforts to diſengage himſelf

himſelf from his enemy. But as the conteſt was ſo unequal, it is probable he would have been ſeverely bitten, had not the honeſt ſtranger, whom he had relieved, come running up to his aſſiſtance, and ſeeing the danger of his benefactor, laid the dog dead at his feet by a furious ſtroke of his broad-ſword. Tommy, thus delivered from the impending danger, expreſſed his gratitude to the ſtranger in the moſt affectionate manner, and deſired him to accompany him to his father's houſe; where he and his wearied children ſhould receive whatever refreſhment they wiſhed. He then turned his eyes to the lamb which had been the cauſe of the conteſt, and lay panting upon the ground, bleeding and wounded, but not to death, and remarked, with aſtoniſhment, upon his fleece, the well-known characters of H. S. accompanied with a croſs! As I live, ſaid Tommy, I believe this is the very lamb which Harry uſed to be ſo fond of, and which uſed ſometimes to follow him to Mr. Barlow's. I am the luckieſt fellow in the

world, to have come in time to deliver him; and now, perhaps, Harry may forgive me all the ill uſage he has met with. Saying this, he took the lamb up, and kiſſed it with the greateſt tenderneſs; nay, he would have even borne it home in his arms, had it not been rather too heavy for his ſtrength: but the honeſt ſtranger, with a grateful officiouſneſs, offered his ſervices, and prevailed on Tommy to let him carry it, while he delivered his child to the biggeſt of its brothers.

When Tommy was now arrived within a little diſtance of his home, he met his father and Mr. Barlow, who had left the houſe to enjoy the morning air before breakfaſt. They were ſurpriſed to ſee him in ſuch an equipage; for the dirt, which had beſpattered him from head to foot, began to dry in various places, and gave him the appearance of a farmer's clay-built wall in the act of hardening. But Tommy, without giving them time to make inquiries, ran affectionately up to Mr. Barlow, and taking him by the hand, ſaid, Oh, ſir! here is the luckieſt accident in

the

the world—poor Harry Sandford's favourite lamb would have been killed by a great miſchievous dog, if I had not happened to come by and ſave his life. And who is this honeſt man, ſaid Mr. Merton, whom you have picked up on the common? He ſeems to be in diſtreſs, and his famiſhed children are ſcarcely able to drag themſelves along. Poor man! anſwered Tommy, I am very much obliged to him; for, when I went to ſave Harry's lamb, the dog attacked me, and would have hurt me very much, if he had not come to my aſſiſtance, and killed him with his great ſword. So I have brought him with me, that he might refreſh himſelf with his poor children, one of which has a terrible ague. For I knew, papa, though I have not behaved well of late, you would not be againſt my doing an act of charity. I am, on the contrary, very glad, ſaid Mr. Merton, to ſee you have ſo much gratitude in your temper. But what is the reaſon that I ſee you thus diſfigured with dirt? Surely you muſt have been riding, and your horſe

have thrown you? And ſo it is, for here is William following with both the horſes in a foam. William at that moment appeared, and, trotting up to his maſter, began to make excuſes for his own ſhare in the buſineſs. Indeed, ſir, ſaid he, I did not think there was the leaſt harm in going out with maſter Tommy; and we were riding along as quietly as poſſible, and maſter was giving me a long account of the Arabs; who, he ſaid, lived in the fineſt country in the world, which does not produce any thing to eat, or drink, or wear; and yet they never want or come upon the pariſh; but ride the moſt mettled horſes in the world, fit to ſtart for any plate in England. And juſt as he was giving me this account, Punch took it into his head to run away, and while I was endeavouring to catch him, he jumped into a quagmire, and ſhot maſter Tommy off in the middle of it. No, ſaid Tommy, there you miſtake; I believe I could manage a much more ſpirited horſe than Punch; but I thought it prudent to

throw

throw myſelf off, for fear of his plunging deeper in the mire. But how is this? ſaid Mr. Merton. The poney uſed to be the quieteſt of horſes; what can have given him this ſudden impulſe to run away? Sure, William, you were not ſo imprudent as to truſt your maſter with ſpurs? No, ſir, anſwered William, not I, and I can take my oath he had no ſpurs on when we ſet out. Mr. Merton was convinced there was ſome myſtery in this tranſaction, and looking at his ſon to find it out, he at length diſcovered the ingenious contrivance of Tommy to ſupply the place of ſpurs, and could hardly preſerve his gravity at the ſight. He however mildly ſet before him his imprudence, which might have been attended with the moſt fatal conſequences, the fracture of his limbs, or even the loſs of his life, and deſired him for the future to be more cautious. They then returned to the houſe, and Mr. Merton ordered the ſervants to ſupply his gueſts with plenty of the moſt nouriſhing food. After

breakfaſt, they ſent for the unhappy ſtranger into the parlour, whoſe countenance now beſpoke his ſatisfaction and gratitude; and Mr. Merton, who, by his dreſs and accent, diſcovered him to be an inhabitant of Scotland, deſired to know by what accident he had thus wandered ſo far from home with theſe poor helpleſs children, and had been reduced to ſo much miſery. Alas! your honour, anſwered the man, I ſhould ill deſerve the favours you have ſhown me, if I attempted to conceal any thing from ſuch worthy benefactors. My tale, however, is ſimple and unintereſting, and I fear there can be nothing in the ſtory of my diſtreſs the leaſt deſerving of your attention. Surely, ſaid Mr. Merton, with the moſt benevolent courteſy, there muſt be ſomething in the diſtreſs of every honeſt man which ought to intereſt his fellow-creatures: and if you will acquaint us with all the circumſtances of your ſituation, it may perhaps be within our power, as it certainly is in our inclinations, to do you farther ſervice.

vice. The man then bowed to the company with an air of dignity which ſurpriſed them all, and thus began:—I was born in that part of our iſland which is called the North of Scotland. The country there, partly from the barrenneſs of the ſoil and the inclemency of the ſeaſons, and partly from other cauſes which I will not now enumerate, is unfavourable to the exiſtence of its inhabitants. More than half the year our mountains are covered with continual ſnows, which prohibit the uſe of agriculture, or blaſt the expectations of an harveſt. Yet the race of men which inhabit theſe dreary wilds are perhaps not more undeſerving the ſmiles of fortune than many of their happier neighbours. Accuſtomed to a life of toil and hardſhip, their bodies are braced by the inceſſant difficulties they have to encounter, and their minds remain untainted by the example of their more luxurious neighbours. They are bred up from infancy with a deference and reſpect for their parents, and with a mutual ſpirit

of endearment towards their equals, which I have not remarked in happier climates. Theſe circumſtances expand and elevate the mind, and attach the highlanders to their native mountains with a warmth of affection, which is ſcarcely known in the midſt of poliſhed cities and cultivated countries. Every man there is more or leſs acquainted with the hiſtory of his clan, and the martial exploits which they have performed. In the winter ſeaſon we ſit around the blazing light of our fires, and commemorate the glorious actions of our anceſtors; the children catch the ſound, and conſider themſelves as intereſted in ſupporting the honour of a nation, which is yet unſullied in the annals of the world, and reſolve to tranſmit it equally pure to their poſterity. With theſe impreſſions, which were the earlieſt I can remember, you cannot wonder, gentlemen, that I ſhould early imbibe a ſpirit of enterpriſe and a love of arms. My father was, indeed, poor, but he had been himſelf a ſoldier, and therefore

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did not ſo ſtrenuouſly oppoſe my growing inclinations. He indeed ſet before me the little chance I ſhould have of promotion, and the innumerable difficulties of my intended profeſſion. But what were difficulties to a youth brought up to ſubſiſt upon an handful of oatmeal, to drink the waters of the ſtream, and to ſleep, ſhrouded in my plaid, beneath the arch of an impending rock! I ſee, gentlemen, continued the highlander, that you appear ſurpriſed to hear a man, who has ſo little to recommend him, expreſs himſelf in rather loftier language than you are accuſtomed to among your peaſantry here. But you ſhould remember that a certain degree of education is more general in Scotland than where you live; and that, wanting almoſt all the gifts of fortune, we cannot afford to ſuffer thoſe of nature to remain uncultivated. When, therefore, my father ſaw that the determined bent of my temper was towards a military life, he thought it vain to oppoſe my inclinations. He even, perhaps,

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involuntarily cheriſhed them, by explaining to me, during the long leiſure of our dreary winter, ſome books which treated of military ſciences and ancient hiſtory. From theſe I imbibed an early love of truth and honour, which I hope has not abandoned me ſince; and, by teaching me what brave and virtuous men have ſuffered in every age and country, they have, perhaps, prevented me from entirely ſinking under my misfortunes.

One night in the autumn of the year, as we were ſeated round the embers of our fire, we heard a knocking at the door. My father roſe, and a man of a majeſtic preſence came in, and requeſted permiſſion to paſs the night in our cottage. He told us he was an Engliſh officer who had long been ſtationed in the highlands; but now, upon the breaking out of war, he had been ſent for in haſte to London, whence he was to embark for America as ſoon as he could be joined by his regiment. This, ſaid he, has been the reaſon of my travelling later

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than prudence permits in a mountainous country with which I am imperfectly acquainted. I have unfortunately loſt my way, and, but for your kindneſs, added he, ſmiling, I muſt here begin my campaign, and paſs the night upon a bed of heath amid the mountains. My father roſe, and received the officer with all the courteſy he was able; for in Scotland every man thinks himſelf honoured by being permitted to exerciſe his hoſpitality; he told him his accommodations were mean and poor, but what he had was heartily at his ſervice. He then ſent me to look after his viſitor's horſe, and ſet before him ſome milk and oaten bread, which were all the dainties we poſſeſſed: our gueſt, however, ſeemed to feed upon it with an appetite as keen as if he had been educated in the highlands; and, what I could not help remarking with aſtoniſhment, although his air and manners proved that he could be no ſtranger to a more delicate way of living, not a ſingle word fell from him that intimated he ad

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ever been uſed to better fare. During the evening he entertained us with various accounts of the dangers he had already eſcaped, and the ſervice he had ſeen. He particularly deſcribed the manners of the ſavage tribes he was going to encounter in America, and the nature of their warfare. All this, accompanied with the tone and look of a man that was familiar with great events, and had borne a conſiderable ſhare in all he related, ſo inflamed my military ardour, that I was no longer capable of repreſſing it. The ſtranger perceived it, and, looking at me with an air of tenderneſs and compaſſion, aſked if that young man was intended for the ſervice. My colour roſe, and my heart immediately ſwelled at the queſtion: the look and manner of our gueſt had ſtrangely intereſted me in his favour, and the natural grace and ſimplicity with which he related his own exploits put me in mind of the great men of other times. Could I but march under the banners of ſuch a leader, I thought nothing

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would be too arduous to be achieved. I ſaw a long perſpective before me of combats, difficulties, and dangers; ſomething, however, whiſpered to my mind that I ſhould be ſucceſsful in the end, and ſupport the reputation of our name and clan. Full of theſe ideas, I ſprang forwards at the queſtion, and told the officer that the darling paſſion of my life would be to bear arms under a chief like him; and that, if he would ſuffer me to enliſt under his command, I ſhould be ready to juſtify his kindneſs by patiently ſupporting every hardſhip, and facing every danger. Young man, replied he, with a look of kind concern, there is not an officer in the army that would not be proud of ſuch a recruit; but I ſhould ill repay the hoſpitality I have received from your parents, if I ſuffered you to be deceived in your opinion of the military profeſſion. He then ſet before me, in the ſtrongeſt language, all the hardſhips which would be my lot; the dangers of the field, the peſtilence of camps, the ſlow conſuming

ing languor of hoſpitals, the inſolence of command, the mortification of ſubordination, and the uncertainty that the exertions of even a long life would ever lead to the leaſt promotion. All this, replied I, trembling with fear that my father ſhould take advantage of theſe too juſt repreſentations to refuſe his conſent, I knew before; but I feel an irreſiſtible impulſe within me which compels me to the field. The die is caſt for life or death, and I will abide by the chance that now occurs. If you, ſir, refuſe me, I will however enliſt with the firſt officer that will accept me; for I will no longer wear out life amid the ſolitude of theſe ſurrounding mountains, without even a chance of meriting applauſe, or diſtinguiſhing my name.

The officer then deſiſted from his oppoſition, and, turning to my parents, aſked them if it were with their conſent that I was going to enliſt. My mother burſt into tears, and my ſiſters hung about me weeping; my father replied, with a deep

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ſigh, I have long experienced that it is vain to oppoſe the decrees of Providence. Could my perſuaſions have availed, he would have remained contented in theſe mountains; but that is now impoſſible, at leaſt till he has purchaſed wiſdom at the price of his blood. If, therefore, ſir, you do not deſpiſe his youth and mien, take him with you, and let him have the advantage of your example. I have been a ſoldier myſelf, and I can aſſure you, with truth, that I have never ſeen an officer under whom I would more gladly march than yourſelf. Our gueſt made a polite reply to my father, and inſtantly agreed to receive me. He then pulled out a purſe, and offering it to my father, ſaid, The common price of a recruit is now five guineas, but, ſo well am I ſatisfied with the appearance of your ſon, and the confidence you repoſe in me, that I muſt inſiſt upon your accepting what is contained in this purſe; you will diſpoſe of it as you pleaſe for your mutual advantage.

Before

Before I depart to-morrow, I will give ſuch directions as may enable him to join the regiment, which is now preparing to march. He then requeſted that he might retire to reſt, and my father would have reſigned the only bed he had in the houſe to his gueſt; but he abſolutely refuſed, and ſaid, Would you ſhame me in the eyes of my new recruit? What is a ſoldier good for that cannot ſleep without a bed? The time will ſoon arrive when I ſhall think a comfortable roof and a little ſtraw, an enviable luxury. I therefore raiſed him as convenient a couch as I was able to make with heath and ſtraw; and, wrapping himſelf up in his riding-coat, he threw himſelf down upon it, and ſlept till morning. With the firſt dawn of day he roſe and departed, having firſt given me the directions which were neceſſary to enable me to join the regiment: but, before he went, my father, who was equally charmed with his generoſity and manners, preſſed him to take back

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part of the money he had given us; this, however, he abſolutely refuſed, and left us full of eſteem and admiration.

I will not, gentlemen, repeat the affecting ſcene I had to undergo in taking leave of my family and friends. It pierced me to the very heart; and then, for the firſt time, I almoſt repented at being ſo near the accompliſhment of my wiſhes. I was, however, engaged, and determined to fulfil my engagement; I therefore tore myſelf from my family, having with difficulty prevailed upon my father to accept of part of the money I had received for my enrolment. I will not treſpaſs upon your time to deſcribe the various emotions which I felt at the crowd of new ſenſations, which entered my mind along our march. I arrived without an accident at London, the ſplendid capital of this kingdom; but I could not there reſtrain my aſtoniſhment, to ſee an immenſe people talking of wounds, of death, of battles, ſieges, and conqueſts, in the midſt of feaſts, and balls, and puppet-

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ſhows; and calmly devoting thouſands of their fellow creatures to periſh by famine or the ſword, while they conſidered the loſs of a dinner, or the endurance of a ſhower, as an exertion too great for human fortitude.

I ſoon embarked, and arrived, without any other accident than an horrible ſickneſs, at the place of our deſtination in America. Here I joined my gallant officer, colonel Simmons, who had performed the voyage in another ſhip.—Miſs Simmons, who was preſent at this narration, ſeemed to be much intereſted at this mention of her own name; ſhe, however, did not expreſs her feelings, and the ſtranger proceeded with his ſtory.—This gentleman was, with juſtice, the moſt beloved, and the moſt deſerving to be ſo, of any officer I have ever known. Inflexible in every thing that concerned the honour of the ſervice, he never pardoned wilful miſbehaviour, becauſe he knew that it was incompatible with military diſcipline; yet, when obliged to puniſh, he did it with ſuch reluctance, that he ſeemed to ſuffer

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almoſt as much as the criminal. But, if his reaſon impoſed this juſt and neceſſary ſeverity, his heart had taught him another leſſon in reſpect to the private diſtreſſes of his men. He viſited them in their ſickneſſes, relieved their miſeries, and was a niggard of nothing but human blood;—but I ought to correct myſelf in that expreſſion, for he was raſhly laviſh of his own, and to that we owe his untimely loſs.

I had not been long in America before the colonel, who was perfectly acquainted with the language and manners of the ſavage tribes that border upon the Britiſh colonies, was ſent upon an embaſſy to one of their nations, for the purpoſe of ſoliciting their alliance with Britain. It may, perhaps, be not unintereſting to you, gentlemen, and to this my honourable little maſter, to hear ſome account of a people whoſe manners and cuſtoms are ſo much the reverſe of what you ſee at home. As my worthy officer, therefore, contented with

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my aſſiduity and improvement in military knowledge, permitted me to have the honour of attending him, I will deſcribe ſome of the moſt curious facts which I was witneſs to.

You have, doubtleſs, heard many accounts of the ſurpriſing increaſe of the Engliſh colonies in America; and, when we reflect that it is ſcarcely an hundred years ſince ſome of them were eſtabliſhed, it muſt be confeſſed that they have made rapid improvements in clearing the ground of woods, and bringing it to cultivation. Yet, much as they have already done, the country is yet an immenſe foreſt, except immediately upon the coaſts. Theſe foreſts extend on every ſide to a diſtance that no human ſagacity or obſervation has been able to determine. They abound in every ſpecies of tree which you ſee in England, to which may be added a great variety more which are unknown with us. Under their ſhade is generally found a rich luxurious herbage, which ſerves for paſture to a thou-

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ſand herds of animals. Here are ſeen elks, a kind of deer of the largeſt ſize, and buffaloes, a ſpecies of wild ox, by thouſands, and even horſes, which, having been originally brought over by the Spaniards, have eſcaped from their ſettlements and multiplied in the woods.

Dear, ſaid Tommy, that muſt be a fine country, indeed, where horſes run wild; why, a man might have one for nothing. And yet, ſaid Mr. Merton, it would be but of little uſe for a perſon to have a wild horſe, who is not able to manage a tame one.

Tommy made no anſwer to his father, and the man proceeded:—But the greateſt curioſity of all this country is, in my opinion, the various tribes or nations which inhabit it. Bred up from their infancy to a life of equal hardineſs with the wild animals, they are almoſt as robuſt in their conſtitutions. Theſe various tribes inhabit little villages which generally are ſeated upon the banks of rivers, and, though they cultivate

ſmall portions of land around their towns, they ſeek the greater part of their ſubſiſtence from the chaſe. In their perſons they are rather tall and ſlender, but admirably well proportioned and active, and their colour is a pale red, exactly reſembling copper. Thus accuſtomed to roam about the woods, and brave the inclemencies of the weather, as well as continually expoſed to the attacks of their enemies, they acquire a degree of courage and fortitude which can ſcarcely be conceived. It is nothing to them to paſs whole days without a morſel of food, to lie whole nights upon the bare damp ground, and to ſwim the wideſt rivers in the depth of winter. Money, indeed, and the greater part of what we call the conveniencies of life, they are unacquainted with; nor can they conceive that one man ſhould ſerve another merely becauſe he has a few pieces of ſhining metal; they imagine, that the only juſt diſtinctions ariſe from ſuperior courage and bodily perfections, and therefore theſe alone are able

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to engage their eſteem. I ſhall never forget the contempt which one of their chiefs expreſſed at ſeeing an officer who was rather corpulent at the head of his men: What fools, ſaid he, are theſe Europeans to be commanded by a man who is ſo unwieldy that he can neither annoy his enemies nor defend his friends, and who is only fit to be a ſcullion! When they are at peace, they exerciſe the virtue of hoſpitality to a degree that might ſhame more poliſhed nations: if a ſtranger arrives at any of their towns, he enters into the firſt habitation he pleaſes, and is ſure to be entertained with all the family poſſeſs. In this manner he might journey from one end of the continent to the other, and never fail a friendly reception.

But, if their manners are gentle in peace, they are more dreadful when provoked than all the wildeſt animals of the foreſt. Bred up from infancy to ſuffer no reſtraint, and to give an unbounded looſe to all their paſſions, they know not what it is to forgive

an injury. They love their tribe with a degree of affection that is totally unknown in every other country; for that they are ready to ſuffer every hardſhip and danger; wounds, and pain, and death, they deſpiſe, as often as the intereſt of their country is concerned; but the ſame attachment renders them implacable and unforgiving to all their enemies: in ſhort, they ſeem to have all the virtues and the vices of the ancient Spartans.

To one of theſe tribes, called the Ottigamies, was colonel Simmons ſent ambaſſador, accompanied by a few more officers, and ſome private men, among whom I had the honour to be included. We purſued our march, for ſeveral days, through foreſts which ſeemed to be of equal duration with the world itſelf. Sometimes we were ſhrouded in ſuch obſcurity from the thickneſs of the covert, that we could ſcarcely ſee the light of heaven; ſometimes we emerged into ſpacious meadows, bare of trees, and covered with the moſt luxuriant herbage,

herbage, on which were feeding immenſe herds of buffaloes: theſe, as ſoon as they ſnuffed the approach of men, which they are capable of doing even at a conſiderable diſtance, ran with precipitation into the ſurrounding woods. Many, however, fell beneath our attack, and ſerved us for food during our journey. At length we came to a wide and rapid river, upon whoſe banks we found a party of friendly ſavages, with ſome of whom we embarked upon canoes made of the bark of trees, to proceed to the country of the Ottigamies.

After three days inceſſant rowing, we entered a ſpacious lake, upon whoſe banks were encamped a conſiderable part of the nation we ſought. As we approached the ſhore, they ſaluted us with a volley of balls from their muſkets, which whiſtled juſt above our heads without producing miſchief. I and ſeveral of the ſoldiers inſtantly ſeized our arms, imagining it to be an hoſtile attack; but our leader quieted our apprehenſions by informing us, that this was

only a friendly ſalute with which a nation of warriors received and welcomed their allies. We landed, and were inſtantly conducted to the aſſembly of the chiefs, who were ſitting upon the ground, without external pomp or ceremony, with their arms beſide them; but there was in their countenances and eyes an expreſſion of ferocious grandeur which would have daunted the boldeſt European. Yes, gentlemen, I have ſeen the greateſt and moſt powerful men in my own country; I have ſeen them adorned with every external circumſtance of dreſs, and pomp, and equipage, to inſpire reſpect; but never did I ſee any thing which ſo completely awed the ſoul, as the angry ſcowl and fiery glance of a ſavage American.

As ſoon as our leader entered the circle, he produced the calumet, or pipe of peace. This is the univerſal mark of friendſhip and alliance among all the barbarous nations of America, and he that bears it, is conſidered with ſo much reſpect, that his perſon is always ſafe. This calumet is

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nothing but a long and ſlender pipe, ornamented with the moſt lively and beautiful feathers, which are ingeniouſly fixed along the tube; the bole is compoſed of a peculiar kind of reddiſh marble, and filled with ſcented herbs and tobacco. Colonel Simmons lighted his pipe with great ſolemnity, and turning the bole firſt towards the heavens, then to the earth, then in a circle round him, he began to ſmoke. In the mean time the whole aſſembly ſat with mute attention, waiting to hear his propoſals: for though we call them ſavages, yet, in ſome reſpects, they well deſerve to be imitated by more refined nations. In all their meetings and aſſemblies the greateſt order and regularity prevail; whoever riſes to ſpeak, is ſure of being patiently heard to the end without the leaſt interruption. Our leader then began to harangue them in their own language, with which he was well acquainted. I did not underſtand what paſt, but it was afterwards explained to me, that he ſet before their eyes the injuries

they had mutually received from the French and the tribes in their alliance. He told them that their great father, for ſo theſe people call the king of Britain, had taken up the hatchet of war, and was ſending an innumerable band of warriors to puniſh the inſults of his enemies. He told them that he had ordered him to viſit the Ottigamies, his dutiful children, and ſmoke with them the pipe of peace. He invited their young men to join the warriors that came from beyond the ocean, and who were marching to bury the bones of their brethren, who had been killed by their mutual foes. When he had concluded, he flung upon the ground a curious ſtring of ſhells which is called the belt of wampum. This is a neceſſary circumſtance in all the treaties made with theſe tribes. Whoever comes as an ambaſſador brings one with him to preſent to the people whoſe friendſhip is ſolicited, and if the belt is accepted, the propoſed alliance is conſidered as entered into. As ſoon as our leader had finiſhed, a chief of a ſtature

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ſuperior to the common race of men, and of a moſt determined look, jumped into the middle of the aſſembly, and, taking up the belt, cried out in their language: Let us march, my brethren, with the young men of our great father. Let us dig up the hatchet of war, and revenge the bones of our countrymen; they lie unburied, and cry to us for vengeance: we will not be deaf to their cries; we will ſhake off all delays; we will approve ourſelves worthy of our anceſtors; we will drink the blood of our enemies, and ſpread a feaſt of carnage for the fowls of the air and the wild beaſts of the foreſt. This reſolution was univerſally approved by the whole nation, who conſented to the war with a ferocious joy. The aſſembly was then diſſolved, and the chiefs prepared for their intended march according to the manners of their country. All the ſavage tribes that inhabit America are accuſtomed to very little clothing. Inured to the inclemencies of the weather, and being in the conſtant exerciſe of all

their limbs, they cannot bear the reſtraint and confinement of an European dreſs. The greater part of their bodies, therefore, is naked, and this they paint in various faſhions, to give additional terror to their looks. When the chiefs were thus prepared they came from their tents, and the laſt ſolemnity I was witneſs to was dancing the dance of war, and ſinging the ſong of death. But what words can convey an adequate idea of the furious movements and expreſſions which animated them through the whole of this performance? Every man was armed with a kind of hatchet, which is their uſual weapon in battle, and called a tomahawk. This he held in his hand, and brandiſhed through the whole of the dreadful ſpectacle. As they went on, their faces kindled into an expreſſion of anger which would have daunted the boldeſt ſpectator. Their geſtures ſeemed to be inſpired by frantic rage and implacable animoſity. They moved their bodies with the moſt violent agitations, and it was

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eaſy to ſee they repreſented all the circumſtances of a real combat. They ſeemed to be engaged in cloſe or diſtant battle, and brandiſhed their weapons with ſo much fury, that you would have imagined they were going every inſtant to hew each other to pieces; nor would it have been poſſible, even for the performers themſelves of this terrific dance, to have avoided mutual wounds and ſlaughter, had they not been endued with that extraordinary activity which is peculiar to ſavage nations. By intervals they increaſed the horrid ſolemnity of the exhibition, by uttering yells that would have pierced an European ear with horror. I have ſeen rage and fury under various forms, and in different parts of the globe; but I muſt confeſs, that every thing I have ſeen elſewhere is feeble and contemptible when compared with this day's ſpectacle. When the whole was finiſhed they entertained us at a public feſtival in their cabins, and when we departed, diſmiſſed us with theſe expreſſive wiſhes; they prayed that

the Great Spirit would favour us with a proſperous voyage; that he would give us an unclouded ſky and ſmooth waters by day, and that we might lie down at night on a beaver blanket, enjoying uninterrupted ſleep and pleaſant dreams; and that we might find continual protection under the great pipe of peace.—I have been thus particular, ſaid the highlander, in deſcribing the circumſtances of this embaſſy, becauſe you have not diſdained to hear the ſtory of my adventures; and I thought that this deſcription of a people ſo totally unlike all you have been accuſtomed to in Europe might not prove entirely unintereſting.

We are much obliged to you, ſaid Mr. Barlow, for all theſe curious particulars, which are perfectly conformable to all I have heard and read upon the ſubject. Nor can I conſider, without a certain degree of admiration, the ſavage grandeur of man in his moſt ſimple ſtate. The paſſion for revenge, which marks the character of

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all uncivilized nations, is certainly to be condemned. But it is one of the conſtant prejudices of their education; and many of thoſe that call themſelves refined have more to bluſh at, in that reſpect, than they are aware of. Few, I am afraid, even in the moſt refined ſtate of ſociety, have arrived at that ſublime generoſity, which is able to forgive the injuries of its fellow-creatures, when it has the power to repay them; and I ſee many around me that are diſgraced by the vices of uncivilized Americans, without a claim to their virtues.

I will not fatigue your ears, continued the highlander, with a recital of all the events I was engaged in during the progreſs of the war. The deſcription of blood and carnage is always diſagreeable to a humane mind; and though the perverſity of mankind may ſometimes render war a neceſſary evil, the remembrance of its miſchiefs is always painful. I will only mention one event, continually lamented in the annals of this country, becauſe it is connected

nected with the untimely fate of my noble friend and gallant leader.

It was determined by thoſe who governed, that we ſhould march through the woods upon a diſtant expedition againſt the French. The conduct of this enterpriſe was given to a brave but raſh commander, totally unacquainted with the people he had to oppoſe, and unſkilled in the nature of a ſavage war. We therefore began our march through the ſame trackleſs wilds I have deſcribed. We proceeded for ſeveral days, without any other difficulties than the nature of the country itſelf produced, and without ſeeing the face of an enemy. It was in vain that officers of the greateſt experience, and particularly my worthy colonel, ſuggeſted to our commander the neceſſity of uſing every precaution againſt a dangerous and inſidious foe. War is not managed, amid the foreſts of America, in the ſame manner as it is conducted upon the plains of Europe. The temper of the people there conſpires with the nature of the

the country, to render it a continual ſcene of ſtratagems and ſurpriſe. Unincumbered with tents, or baggage, or numerous trains of artillery, the hoſtile warriors ſet out in ſmall and choſen parties, with nothing but their arms, and are continually upon the watch to deceive their enemies. Long experience has taught them a degree of ſagacity in traverſing the woods, which to us is inconceivable. Neither the wideſt rivers, nor the moſt extenſive foreſts, can retard them for an inſtant. A march of a thouſand miles is ſcarcely to them a greater difficulty than the paſſage of an European army between two neighbouring towns. The woods themſelves afford them a continual ſupply of proviſions, in the various animals which they kill by the chaſe. When they are near their enemies, they frequently lurk all day in thickets, for fear of a diſcovery, and purſue their march by night. Hundreds of them ſometimes purſue their courſe in the ſame line, treading only in each other's ſteps, and the laſt of

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the party carefully covers over the impreſſions which his fellows have made. When they are thus upon the point of accompliſhing their purpoſe, the very neceſſities of nature are unheeded: they ceaſe to fire upon the beaſts of the foreſt, leſt it ſhould alarm the foe; they feed upon roots or the bark of trees, or paſs ſucceſſive days in a perfect abſtinence from food. All this our colonel repreſented to the general, and conjured him, with the ſtrongeſt entreaties, not to hazard the ſafety of our army by an incautious progreſs. He adviſed him to ſend out numerous detachments to beat the buſhes and examine the woods; and offered himſelf to ſecure the march of the army. But preſumption is always blind; our general was unacquainted with any other than European warfare, and could not conceive that naked ſavages would dare to attack an army of two thouſand diſciplined troops. One morning the way before us appeared more intricate and obſcure than common; the foreſts did not as uſual conſiſt of lofty trees,

trees, which afford a tolerably clear proſpect between their trunks, but were compoſed of creeping buſhes and impervious thickets. The army marched as uſual with the vain oſtentation of military diſcipline, but totally unprepared for the dreadful ſcene which followed. At length we entered a gloomy valley, ſurrounded on every ſide by the thickeſt ſhade, and rendered ſwampy by the overflowings of a little rivulet. In this ſituation it was impoſſible to continue our march without diſordering our ranks; and part of the army extended itſelf beyond the reſt, while another part of the line involuntarily fell behind. In the moment while the officers were employed in rectifying the diſorder of their men, a ſudden noiſe of muſketry was heard in front, which ſtretched about twenty of our men upon the field. The ſoldiers inſtinctively fired towards the part whence they were attacked, and inſtantly fell back in diſorder. But it was equally vain to retreat or go forward, for it now appeared that we were completely hemmed in.

in. On every ſide reſounded the fatal peals of ſcattering fire, that thinned our ranks and extended our braveſt comrades on the earth. Figure to yourſelf a ſhoal of fiſhes encloſed within the net, that circle in vain the fatal labyrinth in which they are involved; or rather conceive, what I have myſelf been witneſs to, an herd of deer ſurrounded on every ſide by a band of active and unpitying hunters, that preſs and gall them on every ſide, and exterminate them at leiſure in their flight. Juſt ſuch was the ſituation of our unfortunate countrymen. After a few unavailing diſcharges, which never annoyed a ſecret enemy that ſcattered death unſeen, the ranks were broken, and all ſubordination loſt. The ground was covered with gaſping wretches, and ſtained with blood; the woods reſounded with cries and groans, and fruitleſs attempts of our gallant officers to rally their men, and check the progreſs of the enemy. By intervals was heard, more ſhrill, more dreadful than all the reſt, the diſmal yell of the victorious

ſavages,

ſavages, that now, emboldened by their ſucceſs, began to leave the covert, and hew down thoſe who fled, with unrelenting cruelty. As to myſelf, the deſcription which our colonel had given me of their method of attack, and the precautions to be uſed againſt it, rendered me perhaps leſs diſturbed than I ſhould otherwiſe have been. I remarked that thoſe who ſtood and thoſe who fled were expoſed to equal danger; thoſe who kept their rank and endeavoured to repel the enemy, expoſed their perſons to their fire, and were ſucceſſively ſhot down, as happened to moſt of our unfortunate officers; while thoſe who fled frequently ruſhed headlong upon the very death they ſought to avoid. Pierced to the heart at the ſight of ſuch a carnage of my gallant comrades, I grew indifferent to life, and abandoned myſelf to deſpair; but it was a deſpair that neither impaired my exertions nor robbed me of the faculties of my mind. Imitate me, I cried, my gallant countrymen, and we ſhall yet be ſafe. I then directly

rectly ran to the neareſt tree, and ſheltered myſelf behind its ſtem; convinced that this precaution alone could ſecure me from the inceſſant vollies which darted on every ſide. A ſmall number of highlanders followed my example, and, thus ſecured, we began to fire with more ſucceſs at the enemy, who now expoſed themſelves with leſs reſerve. This check ſeemed to aſtoniſh and confound them; and had not the panic been ſo general, it is poſſible that this ſucceſsful effort might have changed the fortune of the fight; for in another quarter the provincial troops that accompanied us behaved with the greateſt bravery, and though deſerted by the European forces, effected their own retreat. But it was now too late to hope for victory or even ſafety; the ranks were broken on every ſide, the greater part of our officers ſlain or wounded, and our unfortunate general himſelf had expiated with his life, his fatal raſhneſs. I caſt my eyes around, and ſaw nothing but images of death, and horror, and frantic rage.

Yet

Yet even then the ſafety of my noble colonel was dearer to me than my own. I ſought him for ſome time in vain, amid the various ſcenes of carnage which ſurrounded me. At length, I diſcovered him at a diſtance, almoſt deſerted by his men, yet ſtill attempting to renew the fight, and heedleſs of the wounds which covered him. Tranſported with grief and paſſion, I immediately darted forward to offer him my feeble ſupport; but in the very inſtant of my arrival, he received a ſtraggling ball in his boſom, and, tottering to a tree, ſupported his fainting limbs againſt the trunk. Juſt in that moment, three of our ſavage enemies obſerved his ſituation, and marked him for their prey; they raiſed their hideous yell, and darted upon him with the ſpeed and fierceneſs of wolves. Fury then took poſſeſſion of my ſoul; had I poſſeſſed a thouſand lives I ſhould have held them cheap in the balance:—I fired with ſo unerring an aim that I ſtretched the foremoſt on the earth; the ſecond received the point

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of my bayonet in his breaſt, and fell in the pangs of death; the third, daunted with the fate of his companions, turned his ſteps another way. Juſt then an horſe that had loſt his rider was galloping along the wood; I bounded acroſs the path, and, ſeizing him by the bridle, inſtantly led him to my leader, and conjured him to preſerve his glorious life. He thanked me in the moſt affectionate manner for my friendſhip, but bade me preſerve my own life. As to myſelf, ſaid he, I do not wiſh to ſurvive my country's diſhonour, and even had I ſuch a wiſh, the wounds I have received would render all eſcape impoſſible. If that is your reſolution, ſaid I, we will die together, for I ſwear by the eternal majeſty of my Creator, that I will not leave you. When he ſaw me thus reſolved, he conſented to uſe my aſſiſtance, and with infinite difficulty I ſeated him upon the horſe, which, holding by the reins, as I was then light and active, I guided along the wood with no inconſiderable ſpeed. Fortunately for me, we

were

were not obſerved by any of our ſavage enemies; ſo that flying through the thickeſt part of the foreſt, we left the danger behind, and were ſoon removed beyond the ſight or hearing of the battle. Courage, ſaid I, my noble leader! you are now almoſt in ſafety; and I truſt you will yet preſerve a life ſo neceſſary to your friends and country. He anſwered me with the kindeſt expreſſions, but with a feeble voice: Campbell, I have conſented to fly more for the ſake of preſerving your life, than from any hopes of my own. But ſince we are at a diſtance from yonder dreadful ſcene, permit me to alight; I have conſumed my ſmall remaining forces in the way, and now I faint from loſs of blood. He ſunk down at this, and would have fallen, but I received him in my arms; I bore him to the next thicket, and ſtrewing graſs and leaves upon the ground, endeavoured to prepare him a bed. He thanked me again with gratitude and tenderneſs, and graſped my hand as he lay in the very agonies of death;

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for ſuch it was, although I believed he had only fainted, and long tried every ineffectual method to reſtore departed life. Thus was I deprived of the nobleſt officer and kindeſt friend that ever deſerved the attachment of a ſoldier; twenty years have now rolled over me ſince that inauſpicious day; yet it lives for ever in my remembrance, and never ſhall be blotted from my ſoul. The highlander then turned away to hide a tear which did not miſbecome his manly countenance; the company ſeemed all to ſhare his griefs, but Miſs Simmons above the reſt; however, as the natural gentleneſs of her temper was ſufficiently known, no one ſuſpected that ſhe had any particular intereſt in the relation.

I ſat till night, continued the ſtranger, ſupporting the breathleſs body of my colonel, and vainly hoping he might return to life. At length I perceived that his noble ſoul was fled for ever; my own wounds grew ſtiff and painful, and exhauſted nature required a ſupply of food. I therefore aroſe,

and, finding a ſpring that trickled down an hill at no great diſtance, I refreſhed myſelf by a copious draught, and waſhed the clotted blood away from the hurts I had received. I then cruſhed ſome leaves, which the inhabitants of that country imagine ſalutary, and bound them on with bandages I tore from my linen. I alſo found a few wild fruits, which paſt experience had taught me were innocent, with which I allayed the pains of hunger. I then returned to the thicket, and, creeping into the thickeſt part, endeavoured to compoſe myſelf to reſt. Strange, gentlemen, as it may appear, neither the forlorn nature of my ſituation, nor the dangers with which I was beſet, were ſufficient to keep me awake. My wearied and exhauſted body ſeemed to triumph over all the agitations of my mind; and I ſunk into a ſleep as deep and profound as that of death itſelf. I awoke next morning, with the firſt rays of the ſun; but, more compoſed, I better underſtood the difficulties in which I was involved, and the uncer-

tainty of my escape. I was in the midst of an immense desert, totally destitute of human assistance or support. Should I meet with any of my fellow-creatures, I could expect nothing but implacable cruelty; and even if I escaped their vigilance, what method of finding subsistence, or of measuring back without a guide the long and tedious march I had trodden? Hope, however, and the vigour of my constitution, still supported me. I reflected, that it is the common lot of man to struggle with misfortunes; that it is cowardice to yield to evils, when present, the representation of which had not deterred me from voluntarily embracing the profession of a soldier; and that the providence of Heaven was as capable of protecting me in the forests of America, as upon my native mountains. I therefore determined to struggle with the difficulties which surrounded me to the last, and to meet my fortune like a man. Yet, as I still by intervals heard the dismal cries of the enemy, and saw their fires at a distance,

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I lay close till night in the obscurity of my thicket. When all was dark and still, I ventured abroad, and laid in my scanty provision of fruits and herbs, and drank again at the spring. The pain of my wounds began now to abate a little, though I suffered extremely from the cold, as I did not dare to kindle a fire, from the fear of discovering myself by its light. Three nights and days did I lead this solitary life, in continual dread of the savage parties which scoured all the woods in pursuit of stragglers, and often past so near my place of retreat, that I gave myself over for lost. At length upon the fourth evening, fancying myself a little restored, and that the activity of the enemy might be abated, I ventured out, and pursued my march. I scarcely need describe the various difficulties and dangers to which I was exposed in such a journey; however, I still had with me my musket; and as my ammunition was not quite exhausted, I depended upon the woods themselves to supply me with food. I travelled the greater part of the

night, involving myſelf ſtill deeper in theſe inextricable foreſts; for I was afraid to purſue the direction of our former march, as I imagined the ſavages were diſperſed along the country in purſuit of the fugitives. I therefore took a direction as nearly as I could judge parallel to the Engliſh ſettlements, and inclining to the ſouth. In this manner I forced my way along the woods all night, and with the morning had reaſon to think that I had advanced a conſiderable diſtance. My wounds began now to pain me afreſh with this exertion, and compelled me to allow myſelf ſome repoſe. I choſe out the thickeſt covert I could find, and ſhrowding myſelf as well as I was able, was ſoon overpowered by ſleep. I did not awake till the ſun had gained the meridian, and, creeping from my retreat, beheld with ſome degree of terror an enormous rattle-ſnake that was coiled up full in my way, and ſeemed determined to oppoſe my paſſage. This animal is frequent in the ſouthern colonies, and is the moſt poiſonous of all the reptiles that haunt

haunt the woods. He is in length from two to ſix feet, beautifully variegated with different colours; but the moſt remarkable circumſtance attending him is a natural noiſe that he produces with every motion of his tail, and which occaſions too his name. I ſoon deſtroyed my hiſſing foe, and taking courage for the firſt time to kindle a fire, I roaſted him upon the embers, and made the moſt delicious meal I ever remember, upon his fleſh.

What, exclaimed Tommy, is it poſſible to eat ſnakes? I thought they had been all over poiſon. Maſter, replied the highlander, the want of food will reconcile us to many meats, which we ſhould ſcarcely think eatable. Nothing has ſurpriſed me more than to ſee the poor, in various countries, complaining of the ſcarcity of food, yet throwing away every year thouſands of the carcaſes of horſes, which are full as wholeſome and nouriſhing as beef, and are in many countries preferred to it. But, in

general, every animal may be eaten, and affords a ſalutary food; as to ſnakes, the poiſon of them is contained in the hollow of their teeth. When they bite they inſtil their venom into the wound, which mixes with the blood, and, without a timely remedy, deſtroys the ſufferer. But if you cut off the head, the reſt of the body is not only wholeſome but palatable, and I have known it eaten as a delicacy by many inhabitants of the colonies.—Thus refreſhed, therefore, I purſued my march through the ſame thick, gloomy country, without meeting the leaſt appearance of an human creature; and at night I cut, with an hatchet that I had about me, ſome boughs, with which I erected a temporary ſhelter. The next day, as I was purſuing my march, I ſaw a deer bound by me, upon whoſe ſhoulders was fixed a fierce and deſtructive animal that reſembles a tiger. This creature, which is about the ſize of a moderate dog, aſcends the trees and hides himſelf among the branches, till a deer, or any other animal that he can maſter, paſſes within

within his reach. He then darts himſelf with a ſudden ſpring full upon the neck or ſhoulder of the unfortunate animal, which he continues tearing with ſo much violence, that he ſoon diſpatches him. This was actually the caſe with the poor deer that paſſed me; for he had not run an hundred yards before he fell down in the agonies of death, and his deſtroyer began to regale himſelf upon the prey. I inſtantly ſaw that this was a lucky opportunity of ſupplying myſelf with food for ſeveral days; I therefore ran towards the animal, and by a violent ſhout made him abandon his victim and retire growling into the woods. I then kindled a fire with leaves and ſticks, and, cutting off a large ſlice of veniſon, I plentifully refreſhed myſelf for my journey. I then packed up as much of the moſt fleſhy parts of the body as I could conveniently carry, and abandoned the reſt to wild beaſts. In this manner did I march for ſeveral days, without wanting food, or ſeeing any probable end of my fatigues. At length I found a lofty mountain before me,

which I determined to aſcend, imagining that ſuch an elevation might enable me to make ſome uſeful diſcoveries in reſpect to the nature of the country I had to traverſe, and perhaps preſent me with ſome appearances of cultivation or inhabitants. I therefore aſcended with infinite fatigue a rough and ſtony aſcent of ſeveral miles, in which I was frequently obliged to clamber up pointed rocks, and work my way along the edge of dangerous precipices. I however arrived without an accident at the top, which was entirely bare of trees, and looking round me beheld a wild and deſert country extended to a prodigious diſtance. Far as my eye could reach, I diſcovered nothing but foreſts on every ſide but one. There the country ſeemed to be more open, though equally uncultivated, and I ſaw meadows and ſavannahs opening one beyond another, bounded at length by a ſpacious river, whoſe end and beginning were equally concealed from my eye. I was now ſo weary of this ſolitary kind of life, that I began to conſider the

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inhabitants themſelves with leſs apprehenſion; beſides, I thought myſelf out of danger of meeting with the hoſtile tribes: and all theſe people, unleſs irritated by injuries, or ſtimulated by revenge, are perhaps leſs ſtrangers to the rites of hoſpitality than any civilized nation. I therefore reflected, that by directing my courſe to the river, and following the direction of its waters, I ſhould have the greateſt probability of meeting with ſome of my fellow-creatures; as the natives build their villages near lakes and ſtreams, and chooſe their banks as a reſidence, when they are employed in hunting.

I therefore deſcended the mountain, and entered the level diſtrict which I ſaw before me. I marched along an open champaign country for ſeveral hours, covered over with a rank ſpecies of graſs, and beheld numerous herds of buffaloes grazing all around. It was here that an accident befel me, which I will relate for its ſingularity, both in reſpect to the dangers I incurred, and my me-

thod of eſcape. As I was thus journeying on I diſcovered a prodigious light that ſeemed to efface the ſun itſelf, and ſtreak the ſkies with an angry kind of illumination. I looked round me to diſcover the cauſe of this ſtrange appearance, and beheld with equal horror and aſtoniſhment, that the whole country behind was in flames. In order to explain this event, I muſt obſerve, that all the plains in America produce a rank, luxuriant vegetation, the juices of which are exhauſted by the heat of the ſummer's ſun; it is then as inflammable as ſtraw or fodder; and when a caſual ſpark of fire communicates with it, the flame frequently drives before the wind for miles together, and conſumes every thing it meets. This was actually the caſe at preſent: far as my eye could reach, the country was all in flames; a powerful wind added freſh fury to the fire, and drove it on with a degree of ſwiftneſs which precluded all poſſibility of flight. I muſt confeſs that I was ſtruck with horror at the

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ſudden approach of a death, ſo new, ſo dreadful, ſo unexpected. I ſaw it was in vain to fly; the flaming line extended for ſeveral miles on every ſide, and advanced with ſuch velocity, that I conſidered my fate as inevitable. I looked round me with a kind of mute deſpair, and began to envy the fate of my comrades who had fallen by honourable wounds in battle. Already did the conflagration ſcorch me in its approach, accompanied by clouds of ſmoke that almoſt ſuffocated me with their baneful vapour. In this extremity, fortune preſented to my mind an inſtantaneous thought, which, perhaps, was the only poſſible method of eſcape. I conſidered that nothing could ſtop the conflagration but an actual want of matter to continue it; and therefore, by ſetting fire to the vegetables before me, I might follow my own path in ſafety. I hope, gentlemen, that during the courſe of a long life, you will never have occaſion to experience the pleaſure which the firſt glance of this expedient afforded

to my mind. I ſaw myſelf ſnatched, beyond expectation, from a ſtrange and painful death, and inſtantly pulled out, with a trembling hand, the flint and ſteel upon which my preſervation was to depend. I ſtruck a light, and preſently kindled the drieſt graſs before me: the conflagration ſpread along the country; the wind drove it on with inconceivable fury, and I ſaw the path of my deliverance open before my eyes. In a few ſeconds a conſiderable vacancy was burnt before me, which I traverſed with the ſpeed of a man that flies from inſtant death. My feet were ſcorched with the glowing ſoil, and ſeveral times had I been nearly ſuffocated with the drift of the purſuing ſmoke; but every ſtep I made, convinced me of the certainty of my eſcape, and, in a little time, I ſtopped to conſider at leiſure the conflagration I had avoided; which, after proceeding to the point whence I ſet out, was extinguiſhed, as I had foreſeen, and delivered me from all apprehenſion.

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I declare, ſaid Tommy, this is the moſt extraordinary thing I ever heard; and yet I can eaſily conceive it, for I once ſaw ſome men ſet fire to the heath and furzes upon the common, and they burnt ſo furiouſly that I was quite afraid to come near the flame.

I purſued my way, continued the highlander, over the ſmoking ſoil, which I had rendered bare to a conſiderable extent, and lodged at night, as uſual, under ſome boughs which I ſtuck up to defend me. In the morning I ſet out again, and ſoon arrived at a ſpacious lake, upon whoſe banks I could plainly diſcern the ſigns of an American encampment. I heſitated ſome time, whether I ſhould again conceal myſelf in the woods, or deliver myſelf up to their mercy. But I conſidered that it was impoſſible long to continue this wandering life; and that, in the end, I muſt have recourſe to ſome of theſe ſavage tribes for aſſiſtance. What, therefore, muſt be done at laſt, it was fruitleſs to delay; I had every

reaſon

reaſon to imagine that the people before me muſt either be favourable to Great Britain, or at leaſt indifferent to the war; and in either caſe, from the experience I poſſeſt of the manners of the natives, I did not think I had much to fear. I therefore determined to hazard every thing upon the probability of a favourable reception, and, collecting all my reſolution, I marched boldly forward, and ſoon arrived at the encampment. As ſoon as I entered the village, the women and children gathered round me with the curioſity natural to mankind at the ſight of an unaccuſtomed object. I formed a favourable conjecture from this apparent ignorance of Europeans, and walking on with a compoſed ſtep and ſteady countenance, I at length entered into one of the largeſt cabins I could find. When I was within, I ſaw a venerable old man, whom I took to be a chief from his appearance, ſitting at his eaſe upon the ground, and ſmoking. I ſaluted him with all the courteſy I was able, and placed myſelf upon the

the ground, at ſome little diſtance, waiting with inward anxiety, but external compoſure, for him to begin the converſation. After he had eyed me for ſome time with fixed attention, but without either ſternneſs or anger, he calmly took the pipe from his mouth and preſented it to me. I received it with infinite ſatisfaction; for, as I have before remarked, this is always with the American tribes the firmeſt pledge of peace and a friendly reception. When we had thus been ſeated for ſome time in mutual contemplation of each other, he aſked me, in a dialect which I underſtood tolerably well, to eat. I did not think it prudent to refuſe any offered civility, and therefore accepted the offer; and, in a little time, a young woman, who was in the back part of the hut, ſet before me ſome broiled fiſh and parched maize. After I had eaten, my friendly hoſt inquired into my country and the reaſons of my viſit. I was juſt enough acquainted with the language he ſpoke to be able to underſtand him, and to give an intel-

intelligible, though imperfect anſwer. I therefore explained to him, as well as I was able, that I had croſt the great water, with the warriors of the king of Britain; that we had been compelled to take up the hatchet againſt the French and their allies, and that we had actually ſet out upon an expedition againſt their colonies; but that we had been ſurpriſed by a lurking party in the woods; that in the confuſion of the fight I had been ſeparated from the reſt, and had wandered ſeveral days through the woods in ſearch of my comrades; and that now ſeeing the tents of my brethren, the red men, I had come to viſit them, and ſmoke the pipe of peace in their company. All this I with ſome difficulty explained to my entertainer, who liſtened to me with great attention, and then bade me welcome in the name of his nation, which he told me was called the Saukies; he added, that their young men were diſperſed through the woods, hunting the deer and buffalo; but they would ſoon return loaded with provi-

ſions,

ſions, and in the mean time I might ſhare his cabin, and ſuch proviſions as he could command. I thanked him for his offer, and remained ſeveral days in his hut, always entertained with the ſame hoſpitality, until the return of the young men from hunting. They came at laſt, in ſeveral boats, along the lake, bringing with them a conſiderable quantity of wild beaſts which they had killed. I was received by all the tribe with the ſame hoſpitality I had experienced from the old chief; and, as it was neceſſary to gain their friendſhip as much as poſſible, I joined them in all their hunting and fiſhing parties, and ſoon acquired a conſiderable degree of ſkill in both.

Hunting itſelf has ſomething cruel in the practice; it is a ſpecies of war which we wage with brute animals for their ſpoils; but if ever it can be conſidered as excuſable, it is in theſe ſavage nations, who have recourſe to it for their ſubſiſtence. They are active, bold, and dexterous, to ſuch a degree, in all theſe exerciſes, that none of the wild

wild animals they attack have the ſmalleſt chance of eſcape. Their parties generally conſiſt of almoſt all the youth of their nation, who go in a body to particular diſtricts where they know game is plentiful. Their common method is, when they are arrived at a ſpot which abounds in deer or buffaloes, to diſperſe themſelves through the woods; and then, alarming the beaſts in the neighbourhood, they drive them with ſhouts and dogs towards ſome common place, which is always in the middle of all their parties. When they have thus rouſed their prey, the various ſquadrons gradually advance towards the centre, till they unite in a circle, and encloſe a prodigious number of frightened animals. They then attack them either with fire arms or arrows, and ſhoot them down ſucceſſively. By theſe means they are ſure, in a ſingle day, to deſtroy a prodigious number of different beaſts. But it ſometimes happens, that while they are engaged in the chaſe of other animals, they become a prey themſelves to

their

their enemies; who take this method of ſurpriſing them in the woods, and gratifying their reſentment. This was actually the caſe with my friends the Saukies, and produced a ſurpriſing event; the conſequence of which was my return to the Engliſh colonies in ſafety.

The Saukies had been long at war with the Iroqueſe, a powerful tribe of Northern Americans in the intereſt of the French. The Iroqueſe had received intelligence of the ſituation of the Saukies' encampment, and determined to ſurpriſe them. For this purpoſe, a thouſand warriors ſet out by a ſecret march through the woods, and travelled with the ſilence and celerity which are peculiar to all theſe nations. When they had nearly approached the hunting grounds of their enemies, they happened to be diſcovered upon their march by four warriors of another nation, who inſtantly ſuſpected their deſign, and, running with greater diligence than it was poſſible ſo large a body could make, arrived at the encamp-

ment

ment of the Saukies, and informed them of the near approach of their enemies. A great council was inſtantly aſſembled to deliberate upon the choice of proper meaſures for their defence. As they were incumbered with their families, it was impracticable to retreat with ſafety; and it ſeemed equally difficult to reſiſt ſo large a force with inferior numbers. While they were in this uncertainty, I conſidered the nature of their ſituation, and had the good fortune to find out a reſource, which being communicated to my friend the chief, and adopted by the nation, was the mean of their ſafety. I obſerved that the paſſage to the Saukie camp for the Iroqueſe lay along a narrow ſlip of land which extended for near a mile between two lakes. I therefore adviſed the Saukies to caſt up a ſtrong barrier at the end of the paſſage; which I ſhowed them how to ſtrengthen with ditches, paliſades, and ſome of the improvements of European fortification. Their number of warriors amounted to about four hundred;

dred; theſe I divided into equal parts, and leaving one to defend the lines, I placed the other in ambuſcade along the neighbouring woods. Scarcely were theſe diſpoſitions finiſhed before the Iroqueſe appeared, and imagining they were ruſhing upon an unguarded foe, entered the defile without heſitation. As ſoon as the whole body was thus imprudently engaged, the other party of the Saukies ſtarted from their hiding-places, and running to the entrance of the ſtrait, threw up in an inſtant another fortification, and had the ſatisfaction to ſee the whole force of their enemies thus circumvented and caught in a trap. The Iroqueſe ſoon perceived the difficulty and danger of eſcape. They however behaved with that extraordinary compoſure which is the peculiar characteriſtic of this people on every occaſion. The lakes were at that time frozen over, yet not ſo hard as to permit them to effect a paſſage over the ice; and though a thaw ſucceeded in a ſhort time, it was equally impracticable to paſs

by

by ſwimming, or on rafts. Three days, therefore, the Iroqueſe remained quiet in this diſagreeable ſituation; and, as if they had nothing to apprehend, diverted themſelves all this time with fiſhing. On the fourth morning they judged the ice ſufficiently diſſolved to attempt their eſcape; and therefore, cutting down ſome trees which grew upon the ſtrait, they formed them into rafts, and embarked their whole force. But this could not be done without the knowledge of the Saukies, who diſpatched a conſiderable body of warriors to oppoſe their landing. It is unneceſſary to relate all the horrid particulars of the engagement which enſued; I will only mention that the Iroqueſe at length effected their landing with the loſs of half their number, and retreated precipitately to their own country, leaving behind them all the furs and ſkins which they had taken in their hunting. The ſhare I had had in this ſucceſs gained me the friendſhip of all the nation; and, at my deſire, they ſent ſome of their young men to

guide me through the woods to the Engliſh ſettlements, and took their leave of me with every expreſſion of eſteem, and a conſiderable preſent of valuable furs.

Theſe, gentlemen, are the moſt important and intereſting of my adventures; and as I have already treſpaſſed too long upon your patience, I ſhall haſten to conclude my ſtory. After this, I was employed in various parts of America and the Weſt Indies, during the reſt of the war. I ſuffered hardſhips and difficulties innumerable, and acquired, as my father had foretold, a little wiſdom at the price of a conſiderable quantity of blood. When the war was ended, I found myſelf nearly in the ſame ſituation as I began, except the preſent of my friendly Americans, which I had turned into money and remitted to England. I therefore now began to feel my military enthuſiaſm abated, and having permiſſion to leave the ſervice, I embraced that opportunity of returning to my country, fully determined to ſpend the remainder of my life amid

amid my family and friends. I found my father and mother ſtill living, who received me in the fondeſt manner. I then employed the little fund I had acquired to ſtock a farm, which I hired in the neighbourhood, and where I imagined my care and induſtry would be ſufficient to inſure us all a comfortable ſubſiſtence. Some little time after, I married a virtuous and induſtrious young woman, the mother of the unfortunate children who are ſo much indebted to your bounty. For ſome time I made a ſhift to ſucceed tolerably well: but at length the diſtreſſes of my country increaſing, I found myſelf involved in the deepeſt poverty. Several years of uncommon ſeverity deſtroyed my cattle, which is the chief ſupport of the highlanders, and rotted the ſcanty crops, which were to ſupply us with food, upon the ground. I cannot accuſe myſelf of either voluntary unthriftineſs, or neglect of my buſineſs; but there are ſome ſituations in which it ſeems impoſſible for human exertion to ſtem the torrent of miſ-

fortune.

fortune. But wherefore ſhould I give pain to ſuch kind and worthy benefactors, by a detail of all the miſeries which I, and many of my poor countrymen, have endured?—I will therefore only mention, that after having ſuffered, I think, every diſtreſs which human nature is equal to ſupport; after having ſeen my tender parents, and laſt, my dear, unfortunate wife, periſh by the hardſhips of our ſituation, I took the reſolution of for ever abandoning a country which ſeemed incapable of ſupporting its inhabitants. I thought that the milder climate and more fertile ſoil of America might perhaps enable a wretched wanderer, who aſked no more than food for his ſtarving children, to drag on, a little longer, a miſerable life. With this idea, I ſold the remainder of my ſtock, and after having paid whatever was due to my landlord, I found I had juſt enough to tranſport myſelf and family into eternal baniſhment. I reached a ſea-port town, and embarked with my children on board a ſhip that was ſetting ſail for Phila-

delphia. But the ſame ill fortune ſeemed ſtill to accompany my ſteps; for a dreadful ſtorm aroſe, which, after having toſt our veſſel during ſeveral days, wrecked us at length upon the coaſt. All the crew, indeed, eſcaped, and with infinite difficulty I ſaved theſe dear, but miſerable infants, who now accompany me; but when I reflect upon my ſituation, in a diſtant country, without reſources, friends, or hopes, I am almoſt inclined to think that we might all have been happier in the boſom of the ocean.

Here the highlander finiſhed his ſtory, and all the company were affected with the recital of his diſtreſſes. They all endeavoured to comfort him with the kindeſt expreſſions and promiſes of aſſiſtance; but Miſs Simmons, after ſhe had with ſome difficulty compoſed herſelf enough to ſpeak, aſked the man if his name was not Andrew Campbell. The highlander anſwered with ſome ſurpriſe, it was. Then, ſaid ſhe, you will

will find that you have a friend, whom, as yet, you are not acquainted with, who has both the ability and the will to ſerve you. That friend, added ſhe, ſeeing all the company were aſtoniſhed, is no other than my uncle. That Colonel Simmons, whom you have deſcribed with ſo much feeling and affection, was brother to my father, and conſequently uncle to myſelf. It is no wonder that the memory of ſuch a man ſhould be venerated by all his relations. I have often heard my uncle ſpeak of his untimely death as the greateſt misfortune which ever happened to our family; and I have often ſeen him read, with tears in his eyes, many of his brother's letters, in which he ſpeaks with the greateſt affection of his faithful highlander, Andrew Campbell.

At theſe words the poor highlander, unable to repreſs the ſtrong emotions of his mind, ſprang forward in a ſudden tranſport of joy, and, without conſideration of circumſtances, caught Miſs Simmons in his arms, exclaiming at the ſame time, Praiſed

be God for this happy and unexpected meeting! Bleſſed be my ſhipwreck itſelf, that has given me an opportunity of ſeeing, before I die, ſome of the blood of my dear and worthy colonel! And perceiving Miſs Simmons confuſed at this abrupt and unexpected ſalutation, he added, in the moſt reſpectful manner: Pardon me, my honoured young lady, for the improper liberty I have taken; but I was not maſter of myſelf to find, at a time when I thought myſelf the moſt forlorn and miſerable of the human race, that I was in company with the neareſt relation of the man, that, after my own father, I have always loved and reverenced moſt. Miſs Simmons anſwered, with the greateſt affability, that ſhe freely excuſed the warmth of his affection; and that ſhe would that very day acquaint her uncle with this extraordinary event; who, ſhe did not doubt, would come over with the greateſt expedition to ſee a perſon whom he knew ſo well by name, and who could inform him of ſo many particulars of her uncle.

And

And now the company being ſeparated, Tommy, who had liſtened with ſilent attention to the ſtory of the highlander, took an opportunity of following Mr. Barlow, who was walking out: and when he perceived they were alone, he looked at him as if he had ſome weighty matter to diſcloſe, but was unable to give it utterance. Mr. Barlow, therefore, turned towards him with the greateſt kindneſs, and, taking him tenderly by the hand, inquired what he wiſhed. Indeed, ſir, anſwered Tommy, almoſt crying, I am ſcarcely able to tell you. But I have been a very bad and ungrateful boy, and I am afraid you no longer have the ſame affection for me.

Mr. Barlow.

If you are ſenſible of your faults, my little friend, that is a very great ſtep towards amending them. Let me therefore know what it is, the recollection of which diſtreſſes you ſo much, and if it is in my power to aſſiſt in making you eaſy, there

is nothing, I am ſure, which I ſhall be inclined to refuſe you.

TOMMY.

Oh, ſir! your ſpeaking to me with ſo much goodneſs hurts me a great deal more than if you were to be very angry. For when people are angry and paſſionate, one does not ſo much mind what they ſay. But when you ſpeak with ſo much kindneſs, it ſeems to pierce me to the very heart, becauſe I know I have not deſerved it.

Mr. BARLOW.

But if you are ſenſible of having committed any faults, you may reſolve to behave ſo well for the future, that you may deſerve every body's friendſhip and eſteem. Few people are ſo perfect as not to err ſometimes; and if you are convinced of your errors, you will be more cautious how you give way to them a ſecond time.

TOMMY.

Indeed, ſir, I am very happy to hear you ſay ſo—I will then tell you every thing

which

which lies ſo heavy upon my mind. You muſt know then, ſir, that, although I have lived ſo long with you, and, during all that time, you have taken ſo much pains to improve me in every thing, and teach me to act well to every body, I had no ſooner quitted your ſight, than I became, I think, a worſe boy than ever I was before.

Mr. Barlow.

But why do you judge ſo ſeverely of yourſelf, as to think you were become worſe than ever? Perhaps you have been a little thoughtleſs and giddy, and theſe are faults which I cannot with truth ſay you were ever free from.

Tommy.

No, ſir, what I have been guilty of is infinitely worſe than ever. I have always been very giddy and very thoughtleſs; but I never imagined I could have been the moſt inſolent and ungrateful boy in the world.

Mr. Barlow.

You frighten me, my little friend.—Is it

poſſible you can have committed actions that deſerve ſo harſh a name?

TOMMY.

You ſhall judge yourſelf, ſir; for now I have begun, I am determined to tell you all. You know, ſir, that when I firſt came to you, I had an high opinion of myſelf for being born a gentleman, and a very great contempt for every body in an inferior ſtation.

Mr. BARLOW.

I muſt confeſs you have always had ſome tendency to both thoſe follies.

TOMMY.

Yes, ſir; but you have ſo often laughed at me upon the ſubject, and ſhown me the folly of people's imagining themſelves better than others, without any merit of their own, that I was grown a little wiſer. Beſides, I have ſo often obſerved that thoſe I deſpiſed could do a variety of things which I was ignorant of, while thoſe who are vain of being gentlemen can do nothing uſeful or ingenious, that I had begun to be

aſhamed

aſhamed of my folly. But ſince I came home, I kept company with a great many fine young gentlemen and ladies that thought themſelves ſuperior to all the reſt of the world, and uſed to deſpiſe every one elſe, and they have made me forget every thing I learned before.

Mr. BARLOW.

Perhaps then I was miſtaken, when I taught you that the greateſt merit any perſon could have, is to be good and uſeful; theſe fine young gentlemen and ladies may be wiſer, and have given you better leſſons. If that is the caſe, you will have great reaſon to rejoice that you have changed ſo much for the better.

TOMMY.

No, ſir, no; I never thought them either good or wiſe; for they know nothing but how to dreſs their hair and buckle their ſhoes. But they perſuaded me that it was neceſſary to be polite, and talked to me ſo often upon the ſubject, that I could not help believing them.

Mr. Barlow.

I am very glad to hear that; it is neceſſary for every body to be polite. They therefore, I ſuppoſe, inſtructed you to be more obliging and civil in your manners than ever you were before. Inſtead of doing you any hurt, this will be the greateſt improvement you can receive.

Tommy.

No, ſir, quite the contrary—Inſtead of teaching me to be civil and obliging, they have made me ruder and worſe behaved than ever I was before.

Mr. Barlow.

If that is the caſe, I fear theſe fine young gentlemen and ladies undertook to teach you more than they underſtood themſelves.

Tommy.

Indeed, ſir, I am of the ſame opinion myſelf. But I did not think ſo then, and therefore I did whatever I obſerved them do, and talked in the ſame manner as I heard them talk. They uſed to be always laugh-

laughing at Harry Sandford; and I grew ſo fooliſh that I did not chooſe to keep company with him any longer.

Mr. Barlow.

That was a pity, becauſe I am convinced he really loves you. However, it is of no great conſequence, for he has employment enough at home; and, however ingenious you may be, I do not think that he will learn how to manage his land, or raiſe food, from your converſation. It will, therefore, be better for him to converſe with farmers, and leave you to the ſociety of gentlemen. Indeed, this, I know, has always been his taſte; and had not your father preſt him very much to accompany you home, he would have liked much better to avoid the viſit. However, I will inform him that you have gained other friends, and adviſe him, for the future, to avoid your company.

Tommy.

Oh, ſir! I did not think you could be ſo cruel. I love Harry Sandford better than any other boy in the world, and I ſhall ne-

ver be happy till he forgives me all my bad behaviour, and converſes with me again as he uſed to do.

Mr. Barlow.

But then, perhaps, you may loſe the acquaintance of all thoſe polite young gentlemen and ladies.

Tommy.

I care very little about that, ſir. But, I fear, I have behaved ſo ill, that he never will be able to forgive me and love me as he did formerly.

Tommy then went on, and repeated with great exactneſs the ſtory of his inſolence and ingratitude, which had ſo great an effect upon him, that he burſt into tears and cried a conſiderable time. He then concluded with aſking Mr. Barlow if he thought Harry would be ever able to forgive him.

Mr. Barlow.

I cannot conceal from you, my little friend, that you have acted very ill indeed in this affair. However, if you are really aſhamed of all your paſt conduct, and determined

termined to act better, I do not doubt that ſo generous and good-natured a boy as Harry is, will forgive you all.

TOMMY.

Oh, ſir! I ſhould be the happieſt creature in the world—Will you be ſo kind as to bring him here to-day? and you ſhall ſee how I will behave.

Mr. BARLOW.

Softly, Tommy, ſoftly. What is Harry to come here for? Have you not inſulted and abuſed him, without reaſon; and, at laſt, proceeded ſo far as to ſtrike him, only becauſe he was giving you the beſt advice, and endeavouring to preſerve you from danger? Can you imagine that any human being will come to you in return for ſuch treatment? at leaſt till you have convinced him that you are aſhamed of your paſſion and injuſtice, and that he may expect better uſage for the future.

TOMMY.

What then muſt I do, ſir?

Mr.

Mr. BARLOW.

If you want any future connexion with Harry Sandford, it is your buſineſs to go to him and tell him ſo.

TOMMY.

What, ſir! go to a farmer's, to expoſe myſelf before all his family?

Mr. BARLOW.

Juſt now you told me you were ready to do every thing, and yet you cannot take the trouble of viſiting your friend at his own houſe. You then imagine that a perſon does not expoſe himſelf by acting wrong, but by acknowledging and amending his faults!

TOMMY.

But what would every body ſay, if a young gentleman like me was to go and beg pardon of a farmer's ſon?

Mr. BARLOW.

They will probably ſay, that you have more ſenſe and gratitude than they expected. However, you are to act as you pleaſe; with the ſentiments you ſtill ſeem to entertain,

tain, Harry will certainly be a very unfit companion, and you will do much better to cultivate the new acquaintance you have made.

Mr. Barlow was then going away, but Tommy burſt again into tears, and begged him not to go; upon which Mr. Barlow ſaid, I do not want to leave you, Tommy, but our converſation is now at an end. You have aſked my advice, which I have given you freely. I have told you how you ought to act, if you would preſerve the eſteem of any good or ſenſible friend, or prevail upon Harry to excuſe your paſt behaviour. But as you do not approve of what I ſuggeſted, you muſt follow your own opinions.

Pray, ſir, pray, ſir, ſaid Tommy, ſobbing, do not go. I have uſed Harry Sandford in the moſt barbarous manner; my father is angry with me; and if you deſert me, I ſhall have no friend left in the world.

Mr. Barlow.

That will be your own fault, and therefore

fore you will not deſerve to be pitied. Is it not in your own power to preſerve all your friends, by an honeſt confeſſion of your faults? Your father will be pleaſed, Harry Sandford will heartily forgive you, and I ſhall retain the ſame good opinion of your character which I have long had.

TOMMY.

And is it really poſſible, ſir, that you ſhould have a good opinion of me, after all I have told you about myſelf?

Mr. BARLOW.

I have always thought you a little vain and careleſs, I confeſs; but, at the ſame time, I imagined you had both good ſenſe and generoſity in your character; I depended upon the firſt to make you ſee your faults, and upon the ſecond to correct them.

TOMMY.

Dear ſir, I am very much obliged to you: but you have always been extremely kind and friendly to me.

Mr.

Mr. BARLOW.

And, therefore, I told your father yesterday, who is very much hurt at your quarrel with Harry, that though a ſudden paſſion might have tranſported you too far, yet, when you came to conſider the matter coolly, you would perceive your faults and acknowledge them: were you not to behave in this manner, I owned I could ſay nothing in your favour. And I was very much confirmed in this opinion, when I ſaw the courage you exerted in the reſcue of Harry's lamb, and the compaſſion you felt for the poor highlander. A boy, ſaid I, who has ſo many excellent diſpoſitions, can never perſiſt in bad behaviour. He may do wrong by accident, but he will be aſhamed of his errors, and endeavour to repair them by a frank and generous acknowledgment. This has always been the conduct of really great and elevated minds; while mean and grovelling ones alone imagine that it is neceſſary to perſiſt in faults they have once committed.

TOMMY.

TOMMY.

Oh, ſir!—I will go directly, and entreat Harry to forgive me; I am convinced that all you ſay is right.—But will you not go with me? Do, pray, ſir, be ſo good.—

Mr. BARLOW.

Gently, gently, my good friend; you are always for doing every thing in an inſtant. I am very glad you have taken a reſolution which will do you ſo much credit, and give ſo much ſatisfaction to your own mind: but before you execute it, I think it will be neceſſary to ſpeak to your father and mother upon the ſubject, and, in the mean time, I will go and pay a viſit to farmer Sandford, and bring you an account of Harry.

TOMMY.

Do, ſir, be ſo good; and tell Harry, if you pleaſe, that there is nothing I deſire ſo much as to ſee him; and that nothing ſhall ever make me behave ill again. I have heard too, ſir, that there was a poor black, that came begging to us, who ſaved Harry from

from the bull; if I could but find him out, I would be good to him as long as I live.

Mr. Barlow commended Tommy very much for diſpoſitions ſo full of gratitude and goodneſs; and taking leave of him, went to communicate the converſation he had juſt had to Mr. Merton. That gentleman felt the ſincereſt pleaſure at the account, and entreated Mr. Barlow to go directly to prepare Harry to receive his ſon. That little boy, added he, has the nobleſt mind that ever adorned an human being; nor ſhall I be ever happy till I ſee my ſon acknowledging all his faults, and entreating forgiveneſs: for, with the virtues that I have diſcovered in h s ſoul, he appears to me a more eligible friend and companion than noblemen or princes.

Mr. Barlow, therefore, ſet out on foot, though Mr. Merton would have ſent his carriage and ſervants to attend him, and ſoon arrived at Mr. Sandford's farm. It was a pleaſant ſpot, ſituated upon the gentle

gentle declivity of an hill, at the foot of which winded along a ſwift and clear little ſtream. The houſe itſelf was ſmall, but warm and convenient, furniſhed with the greateſt ſimplicity, but managed with perfect neatneſs. As Mr. Barlow approached, he ſaw the owner himſelf guiding a plough through one of his own fields, and Harry, who had now reſumed the farmer, directed the horſes. But when he ſaw Mr. Barlow coming acroſs the field, he ſtopped his team, and letting fall his whip, ſprang forward to meet him with all the unaffected eagerneſs of joy. As ſoon as Harry had ſaluted Mr. Barlow, and inquired after his health, he aſked him with the greateſt kindneſs after Tommy; For I fancy, ſir, ſaid he, by the way which I ſee you come, you have been at Mr. Merton's houſe. Indeed I have, replied Mr. Barlow; but I am very ſorry to find that Tommy and you are not upon as good terms as you formerly were.

HARRY.

Indeed, ſir, I am very ſorry for it myſelf.

But

But I do not know that I have given maſter Merton any reaſon to change his ſentiments about me: and though I do not think he has treated me as well as he ought to do, I have the greateſt deſire to hear that he is well.

Mr. Barlow.

That you might have known yourſelf, had you not left Mr. Merton's houſe ſo ſuddenly, without taking leave of any one, even your friend Mr. Merton, who has always treated you with ſo much kindneſs.

Harry.

Indeed, ſir, I ſhall be very unhappy if you think I have done wrong; but be ſo good as to tell me how I could have acted otherwiſe. I am very ſorry to appear to accuſe maſter Merton, neither do I bear any reſentment againſt him for what he has done; but ſince you ſpeak to me upon the ſubject, I ſhall be obliged to tell the truth.

Mr. Barlow.

Well, Harry, let me hear it. You know

know I ſhall be the laſt perſon to condemn you if you do not deſerve it.

HARRY.

I know your conſtant kindneſs to me, ſir, and I always confide in it: however, I am not ſenſible now that I am in fault. You know, ſir, that it was with great unwillingneſs I went to Mr. Merton's, for I thought there would be fine gentlemen and ladies there that would ridicule my dreſs and manners: and though maſter Merton has been always very friendly in his behaviour towards me, I could not help thinking that he might grow aſhamed of my company at his own houſe.

Mr. BARLOW.

Do you wonder at that, Harry, conſidering the difference there is in your rank and fortune?

HARRY.

No, ſir, I cannot ſay I do, for I generally obſerve that thoſe who are rich will ſcarcely treat the poor with common civility. But, in this particular caſe, I did not ſee any reaſon

reaſon for it. I never deſired maſter Merton to admit me to his company or invite me to his houſe, becauſe I knew that I was born and bred in a very inferior ſtation. You were ſo good as to take me to your houſe, and there I became acquainted with him; and if I was then much in his company, it was becauſe he ſeemed to deſire it himſelf, and I always endeavoured to treat him with the greateſt reſpect.

Mr. Barlow.

That, indeed, is true, Harry; in all your little plays and ſtudies I have never obſerved any thing but the greateſt mildneſs and good-nature on your part.

Harry.

I hope, ſir, it has never been otherwiſe. But though I have the greateſt affection for maſter Merton, I never deſire to go home with him. What ſort of a figure could a poor boy like me make at a gentleman's table, among little maſters and miſſes that powder their hair, and wear buckles as big as our horſes carry upon their harneſs? If I at-

I attempted to ſpeak, I was always laughed at, or if I did any thing, I was ſure to hear ſomething about clowns and ruſtics! And yet, I think, though they were all gentlemen and ladies, you would not much have approved of their converſation, for it was about nothing but plays, and dreſs, and trifles of that nature. I never heard one of them mention a ſingle word about ſaying their prayers, or being dutiful to their parents, or doing any good to the poor.

Mr. BARLOW.

Well, Harry, but if you did not like their converſation, you ſurely might have borne it with patience for a little while: and then, I heard ſomething about your being quarrelſome.

HARRY.

Oh, ſir! I hope not.—I was, to be ſure, once a little paſſionate, but that I could not help, and I hope you will forgive me. There was a modeſt, ſenſible young lady, that was the only perſon who treated me with any kindneſs; and a bold, forward, ill-

ill-natured boy, affronted her in the groſſeſt manner, only becauſe ſhe took notice of me. Could I help taking her part? Have you not told me too, ſir, that every perſon, though he ſhould avoid quarrels, has a right to defend himſelf when he is attacked?

Mr. Barlow.

Well, Harry, I do not much blame you, from the circumſtances I have heard of that affair: but why did you leave Mr. Merton's family ſo abruptly, without ſpeaking to any body, or thanking Mr. Merton himſelf for the civilities he had ſhown you? Was that right?

Harry.

Oh, dear, ſir, I have cried about it ſeveral times, for I think I muſt appear very rude and ungrateful to Mr. Merton. But as to maſter Tommy, I did not leave him while I thought I could be of any uſe. He treated me, I muſt ſay, in a very unworthy manner; he joined with all the other fine little gentlemen in abuſing me, only becauſe

I endeavoured to perſuade them not to go to a bull-baiting; and then at laſt he ſtruck me. I did not ſtrike him again, becauſe I loved him ſo much, in ſpite of all his unkindneſs; nor did I leave him till I ſaw he was quite ſafe in the hands of his own ſervants. And, then, how could I go back to his houſe, after what he had done to me? I did not chooſe to complain of him to Mr. Merton; and how could I behave to him as I had done before, without being guilty of meanneſs and falſehood? And therefore I thought it better to go home, and deſire you to ſpeak to Mr. Merton, and entreat him to forgive my rudeneſs.

Mr. BARLOW.

Well, Harry, I can inform you that Mr. Merton is perfectly ſatisfied upon that account. But there is one circumſtance you have not mentioned, my little friend, and that is your ſaving Tommy's life from the fury of the enraged bull.

HARRY.

As to that, ſir, I hope I ſhould have done the

the ſame for any human creature. But I believe that neither of us would have eſcaped, if it had not been for the poor courageous black, that came to our aſſiſtance.

Mr. BARLOW.

I ſee, Harry, that you are a boy of a noble and generous ſpirit, and I highly approve of every thing you have done: but, are you determined to forſake Tommy Merton for ever, becauſe he has once behaved ill?

HARRY.

I, ſir! no, I am ſure. But, though I am poor, I do not deſire the acquaintance of any body that deſpiſes me. Let him keep company with his gentlemen and ladies, I am ſatisfied with companions in my own ſtation. But ſurely, ſir, it is not I that forſake him, but he that has caſt me off.

Mr. BARLOW.

But if he is ſorry for what he has done, and only deſires to acknowledge his faults, and obtain your pardon?

HARRY.

Oh, dear, ſir! I ſhould forget every thing in an inſtant. I knew maſter Tommy was always a little paſſionate and headſtrong; but he is at the ſame time generous and good-natured; nor would he, I am ſure, have treated me ſo ill, if he had not been encouraged to it by the other young gentlemen.

Mr. BARLOW.

Well, Harry, I believe your friend is thoroughly ſenſible of his faults, and that you will have little to fear for the future. He is impatient till he ſees you and aſks your forgiveneſs.

HARRY.

Oh, ſir, I ſhould forgive him if he had beaten me an hundred times. But, though I cannot leave the horſes now, if you will be ſo kind to wait a little, I dare ſay my father will let me go when he leaves off ploughing.

Mr. BARLOW.

No, Harry, there is no occaſion for that.

Tommy

Tommy has indeed uſed you ill, and ought to acknowledge it; otherwiſe he will not deſerve to be truſted again. He will call upon you, and tell you all he feels upon the occaſion. In the mean time I was deſired, both by him and Mr. Merton, to inquire after the poor negro that ſerved you ſo materially, and ſaved you from the bull.

HARRY.

He is at our houſe, ſir; for I invited him home with me; and, when my father heard how well he had behaved, he made him up a little bed over the ſtable, and gives him victuals every day; and the poor man ſeems very thankful and induſtrious, and ſays he would gladly do any kind of work to earn his ſubſiſtence.

Mr. Barlow then took his leave of Harry, and, after having ſpoken to his father, returned to Mr. Merton. During his abſence, Mr. Simmons had arrived there to fetch away his niece; but, when he had heard the ſtory of the highlander, he perfectly recollected his name

and character, and was touched with the ſincereſt compaſſion for his ſufferings. Upon converſing with the poor man, he found that he was extremely well acquainted with agriculture, as well as truly induſtrious, and therefore inſtantly propoſed to ſettle him in a ſmall farm of his own, which happened to be vacant. The poor man received this unexpected change in his fortune with tears of joy, and every mark of unaffected gratitude; and Mr. Merton, who never wanted generoſity, inſiſted upon having a ſhare in his eſtabliſhment. He propoſed to ſupply him with the neceſſary inſtruments of agriculture, and a couple of horſes, to begin the culture of his land. Juſt in that moment, Mr. Barlow entered, and, when he had heard, with the ſincereſt pleaſure, the improvement of his circumſtances, begged permiſſion to ſhare in ſo benevolent an action. I have an excellent milch cow, ſaid he, which I can very well ſpare, whoſe milk will ſpeedily recruit the ſtrength of theſe poor children; and I have half a

dozen

dozen ewes and a ram, which I hope, under Mr. Campbell's management, will ſoon increaſe to a numerous flock. The poor highlander ſeemed almoſt frantic with ſuch a profuſion of unexpected bleſſings, and ſaid, that he wiſhed nothing more than to paſs the remainder of his days in ſuch a generous nation, and to be enabled to ſhow at leaſt the ſentiments which ſuch undeſerved generoſity had excited.

At night, Mr. Merton, who was deſirous, by every method, to ſupport the good impreſſions which had now taken poſſeſſion of Tommy's mind, propoſed that Miſs Simmons ſhould favour them with the concluſion of the ſtory which ſhe had begun the night before. That young lady inſtantly complied, and then read them

The Concluſion of the Story of SOPHRON *and* TIGRANES.

THE venerable Chares continued his narration thus: I paſſed ſeveral months among

the Arabians, delighted with the ſimplicity of their life and the innocence of their manners: and would to heaven, added he, with a ſigh, that I had accepted their friendly invitations, and never quitted the ſilence of their hoſpitable deſerts! How many ſcenes ſhould I have avoided, which fill theſe aged eyes with tears, and pierce my ſoul with horror, as often as I recollect them! I ſhould not have been witneſs to ſuch a waſte of human blood, nor traced the gradual ruin of my country. I ſhould not have ſeen our towns involved in flames, nor our helpleſs children the captives of fell barbarians. But it is in vain for human beings to repine at the juſt decrees of Providence, which have conſigned every people to miſery and ſervitude that abandon virtue, and attach themſelves to the purſuit of pleaſure.

I left Arabia, with an heart penetrated with gratitude and admiration for its virtuous and benevolent inhabitants. They diſmiſſed me with every mark of kindneſs and hoſpitality, guided me over their dreary deſerts, and,

and, at parting, preſented me with one of thoſe beautiful horſes, which are the admiration of all the ſurrounding nations. I will not trouble you with an account of the different countries which I wandered over in ſearch of wiſdom and experience. At length I returned to my native city, determined to paſs the reſt of my life in obſcurity and retirement: for the reſult of all my obſervations was, that he is happieſt, who paſſes his time in innocent employments and the obſervation of nature. I had ſeen the princes and nobles of the earth repining in the midſt of their ſplendid enjoyments, diſguſted with the empty pageantry of their ſituation, and wiſhing, in vain, for the humble tranquillity of private life. I had viſited many of the principal cities in ſeveral countries where I had travelled, but I had uniformly obſerved, that the miſeries and crimes of mankind increaſed with their numbers. I therefore determined to avoid the general contagion, by fixing my abode in ſome ſequeſtered ſpot, at a diſtance from the paſſions and

purſuits of my fellow-creatures. I collected the remainder of my effects, and with them purchaſed a little farm and vineyard in a beautiful and ſolitary ſpot near the ſea. Soon afterwards I married a virtuous young woman, and, in her ſociety, enjoyed for ſeveral years as great a degree of tranquillity as generally falls to the lot of man. I did not diſdain to exerciſe with my own hands the different employments of agriculture; for I thought man was diſhonoured by that indolence which renders him a burden to his fellow-creatures, not by that induſtry which is neceſſary to the ſupport of his ſpecies. I therefore ſometimes guided the plough with my own hands, ſometimes laboured in a little garden which ſupplied us with excellent fruits and herbs. I tended the cattle, whoſe patient labour enabled us to ſubdue the ſoil, and conſidered myſelf as only repaying part of the obligations I had received. My wife too exerciſed herſelf in domeſtic cares; ſhe milked the ſheep and goats, and chiefly prepared the food of the family. Amid my

other

other employments, I did not entirely forget the ſtudy of philoſophy, which had charmed me ſo much in my early youth. I frequently obſerved, with admiration, the wiſdom and contrivance which were diſplayed in all the productions of nature, and the perfection of all her works. I uſed to walk amid the coolneſs and ſtillneſs of the evening, feeding my mind with pleaſing meditations upon the power and wiſdom which have originally produced and ſtill ſupport this frame of things. I turned my eyes upon the earth, and ſaw it covered with innumerable animals, that ſported upon its ſurface, and found, each according to his nature, ſubſiſtence adapted to his wants. I ſaw the air and water themſelves teeming with life, and peopled with innumerable ſwarms of inſects. I ſaw, that throughout the whole extent of creation, as far as I was capable of obſerving it, nothing was waſte or deſolate; every thing was replete with life, and adapted to ſupport it. Theſe reflections continually excited in my mind new gratitude and veneration for

that myſterious Being, whoſe goodneſs preſides over ſuch an infinite variety of beings. I endeavoured to elevate my thoughts to contemplate his nature and qualities; I however found my faculties too bounded to comprehend the infinite perfections of his nature. I therefore contented myſelf with imperfectly tracing him in his works, and adoring him as the common friend and parent of all his creatures.

Nor did I confine myſelf to theſe ſpeculations, however ſublime and conſolatory to the human heart. Deſtined as we are to inhabit this globe of earth, it is our intereſt to be acquainted with its nature and the properties of its productions. For this reaſon, I particularly examined all the vegetables which are capable of becoming the food of man, or of the various animals which contribute to his ſupport; I ſtudied their qualities, the ſoil in which they delighted, and the improvements which might be made in every ſpecies. I ſometimes wandered among the neighbouring mountains, and wherever

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the fall of rocks, or the repeated violence of torrents, had borne away the ſoil, I conſidered, with ſilent admiration, the various ſubſtances which we call by the common name of earth. Theſe I uſed to collect and mingle with the mould of my own garden, by which means I frequently made uſeful diſcoveries in fertilizing the ſoil, and increaſing the quantity of food.

I alſo conſidered the qualities of the air which ſurrounds and ſuſtains all living animals. I particularly remarked the noxious or ſalutary effects it is able to produce upon their conſtitutions, and, by theſe means, was frequently enabled to give uſeful counſels to all the neighbourhood. A large tract of ground had been formerly deluged by the ſea, and the waters, finding no convenient vent, ſpread themſelves all around, and converted a large extent of ſoil into a filthy marſh. Every year, when the heat of ſummer prevailed, the atmoſphere was filled with putrid exhalations, which produced fevers and peſtilential diſorders among the inhabitants.

bitants. Touched with compaſſion for the evils which they endured, I perſuaded them to undertake the taſk of draining the ſoil, and letting off the ſuperfluous waters. This I inſtructed them to do with ſuch ſucceſs, that, in a ſhort time, an unwholeſome deſert became covered with the moſt luxuriant harveſts, and was deprived of all its noxious influence. By thus rendering my ſervices uſeful to my fellow-creatures, I received the pureſt reward which can attend the increaſe of knowledge, the conſciouſneſs of performing my duty, and humbly imitating that Being, whoſe goodneſs is as general and unbounded as his power.

Amid theſe tranquil and innocent employments, my life flowed gently away like a clear and even ſtream; I was a ſtranger to avarice, to ambition, and to all the cares which agitate the bulk of mortals. Alternate labour and ſtudy preſerved the vigour both of body and mind; our wants were few and eaſily gratified; we chiefly ſubſiſted upon the liberal returns of the earth, and ſeldom

polluted

polluted our table with the bodies of ſlaughtered animals. One only child, the unfortunate girl who owes her preſervation to the courage of this young man, was granted to our prayers. But in her we found enough to exerciſe all the affections of our minds. We hung with ecſtacy upon her innocent ſmiles, and remarked her opening graces with all the partiality of parental fondneſs. As ſhe grew up, her mother inſtructed her in all the arts and employments of her ſex; while I, who already ſaw the tempeſt gathering, which has ſince burſt with ſuch fatal fury upon my country, thought it neceſſary to arm her mind with all the firmneſs which education can beſtow. For this reaſon, I endeavoured to give both to her mind and body a degree of vigour, which is ſeldom found in the female ſex. As ſoon as ſhe was ſufficiently advanced in ſtrength to be capable of the lighter labours of huſbandry and gardening, I employed her as my conſtant companion. Selene, for that was her name, ſoon acquired a dexterity in all the ruſtic employments,

ments, which I conſidered with equal pleaſure and admiration. If women are in general feeble both in body and mind, it ariſes leſs from nature than from education. We encourage a vicious indolence and inactivity, which we falſely call delicacy; inſtead of hardening their minds by the ſeverer principles of reaſon and philoſophy, we breed them to uſeleſs arts, which terminate in vanity and ſenſuality. In moſt of the countries which I had viſited, they are taught nothing of an higher nature than a few modulations of the voice, or uſeleſs poſtures of the body; their time is conſumed in ſloth or trifles, and trifles become the only purſuits capable of intereſting them. We ſeem to forget, that it is upon the qualities of the female ſex, that our own domeſtic comforts, and the education of our children, muſt depend. And what are the comforts, or the education which a race of beings, corrupted from their infancy, and unacquainted with all the duties of life, are fitted to beſtow? To touch a muſical inſtrument with uſeleſs ſkill, to exhibit

hibit their natural or affected graces to the eyes of indolent and debauched young men, to diſſipate their huſbands' patrimony in riotous and unneceſſary expenſes—theſe are the only arts cultivated by women in moſt of the poliſhed nations I had ſeen. And the conſequences are uniformly ſuch as may be expected to proceed from ſuch polluted ſources, private miſery and public ſervitude.

But Selene's education was regulated by different views, and conducted upon ſeverer principles; if that can be called ſeverity, which opens the mind to a ſenſe of moral and religious duties, and moſt effectually arms it againſt the inevitable evils of life. With the riſing ſun ſhe left her bed, and accompanied me to the garden or the vineyard. Her little hands were employed in ſhortening the luxurious ſhoots of fruitful trees, that ſupplied our table with wholeſome and delicious fruits; or in ſupporting the branches of ſuch as ſunk beneath their load. Sometimes ſhe collected water from a clear and conſtant rill that rolled along the valley,

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and recruited the force of plants that were exhauſted by the ſun. With what delight did I view her innocent cheerfulneſs and aſſiduity! With what pleaſure did ſhe receive the praiſes which I gave to her ſkill and induſtry; or hear the leſſons of wiſdom and the examples of virtuous women, which I uſed to read her at evening, out of the writings of celebrated philoſophers which I had collected in my travels!

But ſuch a life was too unchequered with misfortune to laſt. The firſt ſtroke which attacked and almoſt deſtroyed my hopes of good, was the untimely loſs of my dear and virtuous wife. The peſtilential heats of autumn overpowered her tender frame, and raiſed a conſuming fever in her veins: for ſome time ſhe ſtruggled againſt the diſeaſe, but at length her pure and innocent ſpirit forſook this earth for ever, and left me, comfortleſs and forlorn, to mourn her loſs.

I will not, my worthy hoſts, attempt to deſcribe the inexpreſſible diſtreſs which ſeized my ſoul at ſeeing myſelf thus deſerted. There

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are ſome philoſophers that aſpire to triumph over human feelings, and conſider all tender affections as diſgraceful weakneſſes: for my part, I have never pretended to that degree of inſenſibility. I have, indeed, oppoſed as criminal, that habitual acquieſcence in ſorrow which renders us unfit for the diſcharge of our duties; but while I have endeavoured to act, I have never bluſhed at feeling, like a man. Even now that time has mitigated the keenneſs of the ſmart, I feel the habitual anguiſh of an incurable wound. But let me rather haſten to relate the few remaining events of an uniform, unvaried life, than detain you with an uſeleſs repetition of my ſorrows.

Scarcely had time afforded me a feeble comfort, when the recollection of paſt miſfortunes was almoſt extinguiſhed by the new ones which overwhelmed my country. The fertile plains of Syria abounded in all the neceſſaries and conveniencies of life. The vine ſeemed to grow ſpontaneouſly in every valley, and offer its luxuriant produce to every hand.

hand. The induſtrious inſect which ſpins the wonderful ſubſtance called ſilk out of its bowels, though lately introduced into that part of Aſia, ſeemed to receive new vigour from the mildneſs of the climate. Corn and oil, the nobleſt fruits, and the moſt ſalubrious herbs, were found in the garden of every peaſant; and the herds of cattle and horſes, which wandered over our luxuriant paſtures, equalled or ſurpaſſed all I had obſerved in other countries. But this profuſion of bleſſings, inſtead of being attended with any beneficial effects, produced nothing but a fooliſh taſte for frivolous employment and ſenſuality. Feaſts, and dances, and muſic, the tricks of players, and exhibitions of buffoons, were more attended to than all the ſerious and important cares of life. Every young man was a critic in the ſcience of adjuſting the folds of his robe, or of giving a ſtudied negligence to his hair; every young woman was inſtructed in every art that ſerves to conſume time or endanger modeſty. Repeat to them an idle tale, the tricks of a game-

gameſter, or the adventures of a ſinging girl, and every audience liſtened with mute attention to the wonderful narration; but tell them of the ſituation of their country, the wretched ſtate of their civil and military diſcipline, or of the numerous and warlike tribes of barbarians which ſurround them, and every auditor would ſteal away in ſilence, and leave the unintereſting theme.

In ſuch a ſtate of things it was not long to be expected that my countrymen would be permitted to hold the riches they abuſed, and wanted firmneſs to defend. A warlike tribe of barbarians burſt forth from the northern mountains of Aſia, and ſpread themſelves over our fertile plains, which they laid waſte like a conſuming tempeſt. After a few ineffectual ſkirmiſhes, which only ſerved to expoſe their weakneſs to the contempt of their enemies, they yielded without oppoſition to the invader; in this, indeed, more wiſe than to irritate him by a fruitleſs reſiſtance: and thus, in a few weeks, the leader of an obſcure tribe of

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barbarians ſaw himſelf become a powerful monarch, and poſſeſſor of one of the richeſt provinces of Aſia.

I was ſitting one evening at the door of my cottage, gazing upon the fading glory of the ſetting ſun, when a man of a majeſtic appearance, but with ſomething ferocious in his look, attended by ſeveral others, paſſed by. As he approached my little garden, he ſeemed to view it with ſatisfaction, and to unbend the habitual ſternneſs of his look: I aſked him if he would enter in and taſte the fruits with his companions. He accepted my offer; and, entering into a ſhady arbour, I brought him the moſt palatable fruits I could find, with milk and other ruſtic fare, ſuch as my farm afforded. He ſeemed pleaſed with his entertainment, and when he was departing, thanked me with great affability, and bade me aſk a favour in return; which, added he, with a certain degree of conſcious pride, you can ſcarcely make too great either for my gratitude or power. If, anſwered I (for I began

gan to ſuſpect that it was Arſaces, the leader of theſe barbarians), your power is indeed equal to every boon, give peace and liberty to my country. The firſt, ſaid he, I have already given; and, as to the ſecond, it is impoſſible; their vices and effeminacy render them incapable of enjoying it. Men that have neither virtue, temperance, nor valour, can never want a maſter; even though Arſaces were to withdraw his conquering troops. But aſk again, added he, ſomething for thyſelf, and let the favour be worthy me to beſtow. Heaven, anſwered I, with a ſmile, has already given every thing that I can want, when it gave the earth fertility, and me the power to labour. All, therefore, that I requeſt, O mighty conqueror, is, that you will pleaſe to order your men to ſtep aſide from the newly cultivated ground, and not deſtroy my vegetables. By heavens, ſaid Arſaces, turning to his companions, there is ſomething elevated in the tranquillity and compoſure of this man's mind; and, were I not Arſaces, I

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ſhould be with pleaſure Chares. He then departed, but ordered me to attend him the next day at the camp, and gave ſtrict orders that none of the ſoldiers ſhould moleſt me, or injure my humble reſidence.

I attended the great Arſaces at the time he had appointed, and traverſed the encampment of his troops with admiration and regret. This people was a tribe of that mighty empire which is called Scythia, whoſe inhabitants have ſo often iſſued from their deſerts for the conqueſt and deſtruction of their neighbours. This country extends to an unknown length behind the moſt fertile diſtricts of Europe and Aſia. The climate is cold in winter, and the earth for ſeveral months covered with ſnow; but in ſummer it feels the enlivening influence of the ſun, and for that reaſon is poſſeſſed of an amazing degree of fertility. But, as the inhabitants live remote from the ſea, and poſſeſs few navigable rivers, they are little acquainted with agriculture or the arts of life. Inſtead of truſting to the increaſe

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of their fields for food, they raiſe prodigious herds of cattle and horſes in the luxuriant paſtures which every where abound. The Scythians, like the Arabians, wander over theſe immenſe ſpaces without a fixed or permanent reſidence. By the ſide of lakes and rivers, where the verdure is more conſtant, and the vegetation ſtronger, they generally encamp, until the heats of the ſummer compel them to aſcend the mountains and ſeek a cooler reſidence. Their houſes are compoſed of ſlender poles covered with ſkins or a coarſe cloth, and therefore eaſily erected, or taken down and ſtowed in waggons, for the convenience of tranſporting them in their marches. Their diet is anſwerable to the poverty of their habitations. They milk their herds, and above all, their mares, and preſerve the produce in large bottles for months together. This ſour and homely meſs is to them the greateſt dainty, and compoſes the chief of their nouriſhment. To this they add the fleſh of their cattle and horſes, which they kill when

afflicted with diſeaſe, but rarely in health. This is the ſimple and uniform life of all the Scythians; but this ſimplicity renders them formidable to all their neighbours, and irreſiſtible in war. Unſoftened by eaſe or luxury, unacquainted with the artificial wants of life, theſe nations paſs their lives in manly exerciſes and ruſtic employments But horſemanſhip is the greateſt pride and paſſion of their ſouls: nor is there an individual who does not at leaſt poſſeſs ſeveral of theſe noble animals. Theſe, though ſmall in ſize, are admirably adapted for the fatigues of war and the chaſe, and endowed with incomparable ſwiftneſs. As to the Scythians themſelves, they excel all other nations, unleſs it be the Arabs, in their courage and addreſs in riding. Without a ſaddle, and even a bridle, their young men will vault upon an unbacked courſer, and keep their ſeats in ſpite of all his violent efforts, till they have rendered him tame and obedient to their will. In their military expeditions they neither regard the

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obſtacles of nature, nor the inclemencies of the ſeaſon, and their horſes are accuſtomed to traverſe rocks and mountains with a facility that is incredible. If they reach a river, inſtead of waiting for the tedious aſſiſtance of boats and bridges, the warrior diveſts himſelf of his clothes and arms, which he places in a bundle upon his horſe's back, and then, plunging into the ſtream, conducts him over by the bridle. Even in the midſt of winter, when the hatred of other nations gives way to the inclemencies of the ſeaſon, the Scythian follows his military labours; and rejoices to ſee the earth thick covered with froſt and ſnow, becauſe it affords him a ſolid path in his excurſions. Neither the ſevereſt cold nor the moſt violent ſtorms can check his ardour. Wrapt up in the thick furs of animals, the patient horſeman purſues his march, while all his food for weeks together is compriſed in a little bag of ſeeds or corn. Javelins, and bows and arrows, are the arms which theſe people are taught from their infancy to uſe with ſurpriſing dexterity:

and, no leſs dangerous when they fly than when they charge the enemy in front, they are accuſtomed to ſhoot with an unerring aim at their purſuers, and turn the fortune of the battle.

Such men are ſcarcely to be conquered by the efforts of the moſt powerful nations or ſovereigns; and therefore, the proudeſt conquerors of the world have failed in their attempts to ſubdue them. Darius, one of the greateſt kings which the vaſt empire of Perſia ever obeyed, once attempted the exploit, and had nearly periſhed in the attempt.

He advanced with a powerful army, but ill prepared for ſuch an expedition, into the Scythian waſtes. The inhabitants, well acquainted with the moſt effectual methods of defence, tranſported their families and herds into the interior parts of the country, and, mounting their fleeteſt horſes, ſeemed to fly before the monarch. Infatuated with pride and confidence, he purſued the chaſe for ſeveral days, until he found himſelf in the midſt

midſt of ſolitary deſerts, totally deſtitute of all that human wants require, where his army could neither advance nor retire, without equal danger of periſhing by thirſt and famine. When they ſaw him thus involved, the Scythian horſemen began to check their ſpeed; inſtead of flying, as uſual, they hemmed him in on every ſide, and haraſſed the army with continual attacks. It was then they ſent a preſent to the Perſian king, whoſe myſterious meaning increaſed the terrors of his ſituation. A Scythian, mounted upon a fiery ſteed, entered the camp at full ſpeed, and, regardleſs of danger or oppoſition, penetrated even to the royal tent, where Darius was holding a council with his nobles. While they were all amazed at this extraordinary boldneſs, the man leaped lightly from his horſe, and, placing a little bundle upon the ground, vaulted up again with inconceivable agility, and retired with the ſame happy expedition. The curioſity of the monarch made him inſtantly order the packet to be examined,

which contained only a mouſe, a bird, a fiſh, and a bundle of arrows. Silence and aſtoniſhment for ſome time ſeized the aſſembly; till, at length, the king obſerved, that he thought the preſent which the Scythians had ſent could ſignify nothing but their ſubmiſſion to his arms. The mouſe, ſaid he, muſt repreſent the earth, becauſe he reſides in holes which he digs in the ſoil; the fiſh inhabits the waters, and the bird reſides in air; by ſending me, therefore, all theſe various animals, they mean to ſignify that they reſign their air, their waters, and their earth, to my dominion: nor is the bundle of arrows more difficult to be explained; theſe conſtitute their principal defence, and, by ſending them to an enemy, they can intimate nothing but terror and ſubmiſſion.

All who were preſent applauded this diſcourſe of the monarch, excepting Gobrias, a man of ſingular wiſdom and experience, who, when he was preſſed to declare his ſentiments, ſpoke to him thus: It is with

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the greateſt reluctance, O king, that I find myſelf compelled to explain theſe preſents of our enemies in a very different manner. That the Scythians, who have hitherto ſhown no marks either of fear or ſubmiſſion, ſhould, on a ſudden, feel ſo great a terror of the Perſian arms, I cannot eaſily believe; more eſpecially when I conſider, that our army is very much reduced by the diſtreſs it has ſuffered, and environed on every ſide by the enemy, whoſe boldneſs viſibly increaſes with our neceſſities. What, therefore, I ſhould infer from this extraordinary preſent is this; they intimate that, unleſs, like the mouſe, you can dig your paſſage through the earth, or ſkim the air like the bird, or glide through waters with the fiſh, you ſhall certainly periſh by the Scythian arrows.

Such was the ſentiment of Gobrias, and all the aſſembly was ſtruck with the evident truth of his interpretation. The king himſelf began to perceive and repent his raſhneſs; inſtead of advancing farther into de-

ſerts which afforded no ſubſiſtence, he reſolved to attempt a retreat. This, however, he was not able to effect, without the loſs of the greateſt part of his troops, who periſhed by thirſt and famine, and the continual attacks of the enemy.

Nor was the expedition of Lyſimachus, another powerful king, againſt this people, leſs memorable or leſs unfortunate. His army was defeated, and he himſelf taken priſoner; but, inſtead of meeting with that cruelty which we are accuſtomed to expect from barbarians, he experienced the greateſt moderation and humanity from his conquerors. The general of the Scythians invited his captive to a ſolemn feſtival, in which he took care to aſſemble every circumſtance of luxury and magnificence which prevails in poliſhed nations. The moſt exquiſite meats were ſerved up to table, and the moſt generous wines ſparkled in golden bowls of the exacteſt workmanſhip. Lyſimachus was equally delighted with the elegance of the repaſt and the politeneſs of

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the entertainer; but he was extremely ſurpriſed, that, inſtead of ſharing in the feaſt, or even ſitting down at table, the Scythian leader repoſed in a corner of the tent, upon the bare ground, and ſatisfied his hunger with the moſt coarſe and ordinary fare, prepared with all the ſimplicity of his country's manners. When the entertainment was finiſhed, he aſked Lyſimachus which method of life appeared to him the moſt agreeable. Lyſimachus could not conceal his preference of the more refined and luxurious dainties, or his diſlike of the Scythian diet. If, therefore, replied his generous hoſt, you feel ſo great a contempt for what this country produces, and ſo ſtrong a preference for the productions of your own, what but madneſs, O king, can have tempted you to come ſo far in order to ſubdue men that live in a manner you deſpiſe? Is it not much greater wiſdom to be contented with thoſe advantages which you prize ſo highly, than to expoſe them to a certain hazard, for the chance of acquiring

what would afford no pleaſure or ſatiſfaction? But let this leſſon be ſufficient to teach you moderation. A country which produces nothing but iron is not eaſily conquered; nor are men, who have been from their infancy enured to every hardſhip, to be vanquiſhed by curled and perfumed ſoldiers, who cannot live without baths, and muſic, and daily feaſts. Be contented, therefore, for the future, to number the Scythians among your friends; and rather pray that the gods may keep them in ignorance of the ſuperiority of your method of living, leſt a deſire of taſting it ſhould tempt them to deſert their own country and invade yours. With this diſcourſe he generouſly reſtored Lyſimachus to liberty, and ſuffered him to lead back the ſhattered remains of his numerous army.

Such was the nation which had invaded Syria, and eaſily triumphed over the efforts of an effeminate and unwarlike people. As I paſſed through the camp, I was aſtoniſhed at the order and regularity which prevailed among

among theſe barbarians. Some were exerciſing their horſes in the mimic repreſentation of a battle; part fled with incredible ſpeed, while the reſt purſued, and darted blunted javelins at their antagoniſts. Yet even thoſe who fled would frequently turn upon their purſuers, and make them repent their raſhneſs. Some, while their horſes were running in full ſpeed, would vault from off their backs to others which accompanied them. Some would gallop by a mark erected for their arrows, and when they had paſſed it a conſiderable way, turn themſelves round upon their horſes and transfix it with an unerring aim. I ſaw many who vaulted upon their horſes, and placed themſelves between two naked ſwords, which would have given them certain death, had they ſwerved ever ſo little from the juſt direction. In another part of the camp, I obſerved the children, who imitated all the actions of their fathers, and bended little bows adapted to their ſtrength, or guided horſes of an inferior ſtature along

the plain. Their women were indeed inferior to the Syrians in beauty and elegance, but ſeemed to be of a more robuſt conſtitution, and more adapted to produce and educate warriors.

I ſaw no gold, no jewels, no vain and coſtly apparel; but all ſeemed buſy in domeſtic cares, preparing the food of their families, or tending upon their infants. At length I reached the royal tent, which ſcarcely differed from the reſt in its ſtructure or ſimplicity, and was immediately introduced to the great Arſaces. He received me with a courteſy which had nothing of the barbarian in it, ſeated me familiarly by his ſide, and entered into a long converſation with me upon the laws, and manners, and cuſtoms of the different nations I had ſeen. I was ſurpriſed at the vigour and penetration which I diſcovered in this untutored warrior's mind. Unbiaſſed by the maſs of prejudices which we acquire in cities, even from our earlieſt childhood, unincumbered by forms and ceremonies which

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contract the underſtanding while they pretend to improve the manners, he ſeemed to poſſeſs a certain energy of ſoul which never miſſed the mark. Nature in him had produced the ſame effects which ſtudy and philoſophy do in others. But what amazed me more than all, was to find this Scythian chief as well acquainted with the ſtate and conſequences of our manners, as if he had paſt his life in Greece or Syria, inſtead of the plains and foreſts of his own domain. He entertained a rooted contempt for all the arts, which ſoften the body and mind, under the pretence of adding to the elegancies of life; theſe, he ſaid, were more efficacious agents to reduce men to ſlavery, than the ſwords and arrows of their enemies.

One day I remember that ſome of our principal men, judging of the mind of their conqueror by their own, brought to him a celebrated dancer; who, at that time, engaged the whole attention of our city, and ſeemed to intereſt it much more than the

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loſs of liberty. This man, who did not doubt that he ſhould enchant the ſoul of a Scythian barbarian, by the ſame arts which had enraptured his refined audiences at home, exerted himſelf with an agility that extorted the loudeſt applauſe from all the ſpectators but Arſaces. At length, one of our countrymen took the liberty of aſking the monarch, what he thought of this extraordinary performance; I think, replied he, coldly, that it would gain him great credit in a nation of monkies.

Another time, he was preſent at the exhibitions of a celebrated muſician, who was reputed to poſſeſs unrivalled ſkill in playing ſoft and melting tunes upon the lyre. All the audience ſeemed to feel the influence of his art, by their inarticulate murmurs of admiration, and the languiſhing poſtures of their bodies. When the exhibition was finiſhed, the muſician advanced, amid the united plaudits of the audience, as if to receive the juſt tribute of approbation from Arſaces. But he, with a ſtern look, ſaid

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to him, Friend, I permit thee to play every night before the Syrians; but, if thy lyre is ever heard to ſound in the preſence of my Scythians, I denounce certain death for the offence.

Another time, an officious glutton of our city introduced to him, with great ſolemnity, two men, whoſe talents he aſſured him were unequalled in their different profeſſions. The one, he ſaid, adjuſted hair with ſuch dexterity, that he could give an artificial beauty to every countenance; and the other poſſeſſed ſuch unrivalled ſkill in cooking a repaſt, that even the ſobereſt gueſt was tempted to commit intemperance. My ſoldiers, replied Arſaces, are accuſtomed to adjuſt their locks with the points of their arrows; nor does our nation conſider a bloated paunch and an unwieldy ſhape, as any accompliſhment in warriors; all, therefore, that I can do for theſe gentlemen, is, to depute one of them to comb my horſe's tail, and the other to feed the hogs of the army.

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After I had converſed ſome time with this barbarian chief, who heard me with the greateſt attention, the hour of refreſhment for the army approached, and I was preparing to retire: but the general ſtopped me, with a ſmile, and told me I had already entertained him with the greateſt hoſpitality, and that therefore it was juſt that I ſhould ſtay and taſte the Scythian food. A bit of dried fleſh, which I afterwards found was that of an horſe, ſome ſour, coagulated milk, with an infuſion of certain herbs, thickened with a coarſe kind of flour, were then brought in, and placed upon the ground. I had learned, during my travels in different countries, to diſcard the falſe antipathies which ſo many nations entertain againſt the diet as well as manners of each other. Whatever is adapted to ſupport life is proper for the food of man; habit will reconcile us to every kind of food, and he that can accuſtom himſelf to be the moſt eaſily contented is happieſt, and beſt prepared for performing the duties of life. I there-

therefore placed myſelf by the ſide of Arſaces, and fed without any viſible repugnance upon a diet, which would have excited abhorrence in the minds of all my countrymen. With them it was a work of the greateſt importance to ſettle the formalities of a meal. To contrive a new and poignant ſauce, to combine contrary flavours in a pickle, to ſtimulate the jaded appetite to new exertions, till reaſon and every thing human ſunk under the undigeſted maſs of food, were reckoned the higheſt efforts of genius. Even the magiſtrate did not bluſh to diſplay a greater knowledge of cookery than the laws; the debates of the ſenate itſelf were often ſuſpended by the fear of loſing a repaſt; and many of our generals prided themſelves more upon the arrangement of their tables, than the martial evolutions of their troops.

After we had eaten ſome time, Arſaces aſked me what I thought of the Scythian method of living. To ſpeak my ſentiments, ſaid I, it is more formidable to your enemies, than agreeable to your friends. He

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ſmiled at my ſincerity, and I departed; but from this hour he diſtinguiſhed me with marks of peculiar favour, and admitted me to all his counſels. This envied mark of diſtinction gave me no other pleaſure than as it ſometimes enabled me to be uſeful to my unhappy countrymen, and mitigate the rigour of their conquerors. Indeed, while the great Arſaces lived, his love of juſtice and order were ſo great, that even the conquered were ſafe from all oppreſſion. The peaſant purſued his uſeful labours, unterrified by the march of armies, or unſolicited brought the produce of his fields to a voluntary market. Merchants from all the neighbouring nations crowded to our ports, attracted by the order and juſtice which were enforced in every part of Arſaces' dominions: and even the vanquiſhed themſelves, defended from oppreſſion and protected in their poſſeſſions, conſidered the ſucceſs of the Scythians rather as a ſalutary revolution than as a barbarian conqueſt.

Such was the pleaſing proſpect of affairs, when

when an unexpected diſeaſe, the conſequence of unremitting exertions, put an end to the glorious life of our conqueror; and with him periſhed all hopes of ſafety or happineſs to the Syrians. His authority alone was capable of reſtraining ſo many needy chieftains, ſo many victorious barbarians: the ſpirit of rapine and plunder, ſo long repreſt, began now to ſpread through all the army. Every officer was an independent tyrant, that ruled with deſpotic authority, and puniſhed as rebellion the leaſt oppoſition to his will. The fields were now ravaged, the cities plundered, the induſtrious peaſants driven away like herds of cattle, to labour for the caprice of unfeeling maſters, or ſold in diſtant regions as ſlaves. Now it was that the miſerable and haraſſed Syrians began to find, that the riches which they ſo much eſteemed were but the cauſes of their ruin, inſtead of being inſtrumental to their ſafety. The poor, accuſtomed to hardſhip, have little to fear amid the viciſſitudes of life; the brave can always find a refuge in their own valour: but all

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the bitterneſs of exiſtence is reſerved for thoſe, that have neither courage to defend what they moſt value, nor fortitude to bear the loſs.

To increaſe the weight of our misfortunes, new tribes of barbarians, attracted by the ſucceſs of their countrymen, iſſued from their deſerts, and haſtened to ſhare the ſpoil. But rapine admits not faith or partnerſhip; and it was not long before the vanquiſhed beheld their conquerors animated by implacable rage againſt each other, and ſuffering in turn the violence and cruelties they had inflicted.

At length, one of the principal officers of Arſaces, who is ſaid originally to have deſcended from the mountains which you inhabit, was raiſed to empire by the ſucceſsful efforts of his ſoldiers. He has already attacked and deſtroyed all his competitors, and aſſembled under his banners the remainder of their forces. Tigranes, for thus is he named, poſſeſſes all the courage and activity of Arſaces, but he is deſtitute of his

his generoſity and clemency. His ambition is vaſt and boundleſs; he graſps at univerſal empire, and rejoices to ſcatter ruin and deſtruction in his way. He has already ſubjected all the maritime cities that derive their origin from Greece, together with the fertile plains of Syria. Theſe mountains, inhabited by a bold and hardy race of men, now preſent a barrier to his enterpriſing ſpirit, and I am aſſured he already meditates the conqueſt. His ſoldiers are drawn together from every part; they ſwarm like ravening wolves along the fields, and nothing can eſcape their fury. In vain did I think myſelf ſafe in the humble obſcurity of my cottage, and the reputed favour of the great Arſaces. Yeſterday, a lawleſs band, not contented with deſtroying my harveſt and plundering my little property, ſeized my daughter and me, and dragged us away in chains. What farther injuries, what farther inſults we might have ſuffered, it is impoſſible to determine; ſince Heaven

was pleaſed to effect our deliverance when we had leaſt reaſon to expect it.

Such was the hiſtory of Chares, which Sophron and his family liſtened to with fixed attention. When he had finiſhed, the father of Sophron again embraced the venerable ſtranger, and aſſured him of all the ſafety which their mountains could beſtow. But, added he, if ſo imminent a danger is near, it behoves us to conſult for the general ſafety; let us aſſemble all our friends and neighbours, that they may conſider whether life is of more conſequence than liberty; and, if they determine to retain that freedom which they have received from their anceſtors, by what means it may be beſt defended. Sophron then immediately went out, and aſcending a neighbouring rock, thus ſhouted out in a voice which echoed over the neighbouring vallies: Arm, O ye inhabitants of Lebanon, and inſtantly meet in council, for a powerful invader is near,

near, and threatens you with death or ſlavery. This ſound was inſtantly repeated by all who heard it, ſo that in a ſhort time the intelligence was diſperſed to the very confines of the country.

It was not long before a numerous aſſembly was convened. The aged appeared with all the majeſtic dignity of wiſdom and experience; their countenances, indeed, indicated the ravages of time, but temperance and exerciſe had preſerved them from the loathſome diſeaſes which grow on luxury and indolence. They were attended by their ſons in all the pride of youth and vigour, who ruſhed along in arms, and ſeemed to breathe deliberate rage and unconquerable oppoſition. When they were all aſſembled upon a ſpacious plain, Sophron roſe, and, with a becoming modeſty, recited the adventures of the preceding night, and the alarming intelligence he had juſt received. He had ſcarcely finiſhed before a general cry of indignation burſt unanimouſly from the whole aſſembly.

When

When it had a little ſubſided, a venerable old man, whoſe beard, white as the ſnow upon the ſummits of the mountains, reached down to his middle, ſlowly aroſe, and, leaning upon his ſtaff, ſpoke thus: Ninety years have I tended my flocks amid theſe mountains, and during all that time I have never ſeen an human being who was bold enough to propoſe to the inhabitants of Lebanon, that they ſhould fear death more than infamy, or ſubmit to be the vaſſals of a tyrant. At this a ſecond cry, which ſeemed to rend the very heavens, was raiſed, and farther deliberation judged unneceſſary, except upon the moſt effectual means of defence. For this purpoſe, the aged and more experienced retired to a little diſtance to conſult. They were not long in their deliberations; it was unanimouſly agreed, that all who were able to bear arms ſhould be embodied, and wait for the approach of the enemy within the boundaries of their own mountains. The nature of the country, always rough, and in many parts inacceſſible,

ceſſible, would afford them, they thought, ſufficient advantages even againſt the more numerous and better diſciplined troops of the invader: and, by the common conſent of all, Sophron was named the general of his country, and inveſted with ſupreme authority for its defence. When theſe meaſures had been reſolved upon, the aſſembly diſperſed, and Sophron was left alone with Chares. It was then the ſtranger thus accoſted him with a deep ſigh: Did ſucceſs, O virtuous Sophron, depend entirely upon the juſtice of the cauſe, or upon the courage and zeal of its defenders, I ſhould have little doubt concerning the event of the preſent conteſt. For, I can truly ſay, that, in all the various countries I have viſited, my eyes have never ſeen a more martial race than I have this day beheld aſſembled: nor can I doubt that their ſentiments correſpond to their appearance. All, therefore, that can be effected by patience, activity, and dauntleſs courage, will be achieved by your countrymen in defence of their liberty. But

war, unfortunately, is a trade, where long experience frequently confers advantages, which no intrepidity can balance. The troops, which are now approaching, have been for years enured to the practice of ſlaughter; they join to a courage which defies every danger, a knowledge of every fraud and ſubtlety which can confound or baffle an adverſary. In bodily ſtrength, in numbers, your countrymen are ſuperior; even in courage, and the contempt of danger, they are probably not inferior to their enemies: but ſuch are the fatal effects of military ſkill and diſcipline, that I dread the event of a combat with ſuch an army and ſuch a leader.

Alas! anſwered Sophron, how well do the mature reflections of your wiſdom accord with my preſaging fears! I know that my countrymen will perform every thing that can be effected by men in their ſituation; and that thouſands will generouſly ſacrifice their lives rather than abandon the cauſe they have undertaken to defend: yet, when

I con-

I conſider the ſuperior advantages of our enemies, my fears are no leſs active than your own. This conſolation, however, remains, that I ſhall either ſee my country victorious, or avoid the miſeries which will attend her ruin.

Hear me, then, replied Chares.——The virtues of your friends, my own obligations to yourſelf, and the deſire I feel to oppoſe the career of mad ambition, conſpire to wreſt from me a dreadful ſecret, which I have hitherto buried in my own boſom, and had determined to conceal from the knowledge of mankind. I have already told you that much of my life has been dedicated to the acquiſition of knowledge, and the inveſtigation of the laws of nature. Not contented with viewing the appearances of things, as they ſtrike our ſenſes, I have endeavoured to penetrate into the deeper receſſes of nature, and to diſcover thoſe ſecrets which are concealed from the greater part of mankind. For this purpoſe, I have tried innumerable experiments con-

cerning the manner in which bodies act upon each other; I have ſubmitted the plants, the ſtones, the minerals, which ſurround us, to the violence of all-conſuming fires; I have examined their ſtructure, and the different principles which compoſe them, with the patient labour and perſeverance of a long life. In the courſe of theſe inquiries, I have made many curious and important diſcoveries, but one above the reſt, which I will now impart, under the promiſe of eternal and inviolable ſecrecy. Know, then, that I have found out an eaſy and expeditious combination of common materials, the effect of which is equal or ſuperior to the moſt potent and deſtructive agents in nature. Neither the proudeſt city can maintain its walls, or the ſtrongeſt caſtle its bulwarks, againſt the irreſiſtible attacks of this extraordinary compoſition. Increaſe but the quantity, and the very rocks and mountains will be torn aſunder, with a violence that equals that of earthquakes. Whole armies, proud of their triumphs,

may be in an inſtant ſcattered and deſtroyed, like the ſummer's duſt before the whirlwind: and, what increaſes the prodigy, a ſingle man may ſecurely give death to thouſands. —This compoſition I have hitherto concealed, in pity to the miſeries of mankind; but, ſince there appears no other method of preſerving the virtuous inhabitants of theſe mountains from ſlavery and ruin, I am determined to employ it in their defence. Give orders, therefore, that a certain number of your countrymen provide me with the ingredients that I ſhall indicate, and expect the ampleſt ſucceſs from your own valour, aſſiſted by ſuch powerful auxiliaries.

Sophron ſaid every thing to Chares which ſuch an unexpected mark of confidence deſerved, and inſtantly received his orders, and prepared to execute them with the greateſt alacrity. Chares, meanwhile, was indefatigable in the execution of his project, and it was not long before he had prepared a ſufficient quantity to provide for the common defence. Tigranes now approached

with the rage and confidence of a lion that invades a flock of domeſtic animals. He had long forgotten all the ties which attach men to the place of their birth, and neither time nor diſtance had been able to extinguiſh the hatred he had conceived to Sophron. Scarcely did he deign to ſend an ambaſſador before his army. He, however, diſpatched one with an imperious meſſage, requiring all the inhabitants of Lebanon to ſubmit to his victorious arms, or threatening them with the worſt extremities of war. When the ambaſſador returned, and reported the fixed determination of Sophron and his countrymen, he was inflamed with rage, and ordered his army to advance to the attack. They marched without oppoſition till they entered the mountainous diſtricts, where all the braveſt inhabitants were ranged in arms to meet the invader. Then aroſe the noiſe of war and the clang of arms; then man encountered man, and wounds and death were ſeen on every ſide. The troops of Tigranes advanced in cloſe array,

with

with long protended ſpears; the inhabitants of Lebanon were lighter armed, and, with invincible courage, endeavoured to break the formidable battalion of their enemies. They ruſhed with fury upon the dreadful range of weapons, and, even wounded and dying, endeavoured to beat down their points, and open a way to their companions. Sophron was ſeen conſpicuous in every part of the field, encouraging his companions with his voice, and more by his actions. Wherever he turned his ſteps, he was followed by the braveſt youth of his party, and there the efforts and the ſlaughter were always greateſt. Five times, covered with blood and duſt, he made a deſperate charge upon the troops of Tigranes, and five times did he force his braveſt ſoldiers to give ground. At length, the ſuperiority of diſcipline and experience began to prevail over the generous, but more unequal efforts of the defenders. The veterans of Tigranes perceived their advantage, and preſſed the enemy with redoubled vigour. This was

the deciſive moment which Chares had foreſeen and provided for: in an inſtant the bands of Lebanon retreat by the orders of Sophron, with a precipitation bordering upon flight. Tigranes, ſuppoſing himſelf certain of victory, orders his troops to advance and decide the fortune of the battle; but, while they are raſhly preparing to obey, a ſudden noiſe is heard that equals the loudeſt thunders; the earth itſelf trembles with a convulſive motion under their feet; then burſts aſunder with a violence that nothing can reſiſt. Hundreds are in an inſtant ſwallowed up, or daſhed againſt rocks, and miſerably deſtroyed. Meanwhile, all nature ſeems to be convulſed around; the rocks themſelves are torn from their ſolid baſe, and with their enormous fragments cruſh whole bands of miſerable wretches beneath. Clouds of ſmoke obſcure the field of battle, and veil the combatants in a dreadful ſhade; which is, from time to time, diſpelled by flaſhes of deſtructive fire. Such a ſucceſſion of horrors

daunted

daunted even the moſt brave: ſcarcely could the troops of Lebanon, who had been prepared to expect ſome extraordinary interpoſition, maintain their poſt, or behold the ſpectacle of their enemies ruin; but the bands of Tigranes were ſtruck with the wildeſt conſternation, and fled with trembling ſteps over the field. And now theſe prodigies were ſucceeded by an awful interval of quiet; the peals of burſting thunder were no longer heard, the lightnings ceaſed to flaſh, the miſts that darkened the ſcene were rolled away, and diſcovered the various fortunes of the fight. Then the voice of Sophron was heard, exhorting his companions to purſue the fugitives and complete their victory. They ruſhed forwards like angry lions to the chaſe; but all reſiſtance was at an end; and Sophron, who now perceived that the enemy was irretrievably broken, checked the ardour of his men, and entreated them to ſpare the vanquiſhed. They obeyed his voice, and,

after having chaſed them beyond the utmoſt boundaries of Lebanon, returned in triumph, amid the praiſes and acclamations of their joyful families, whom they had preſerved from ſlavery by their valour. They then examined the field of battle, and, collecting all who had any remains of life, they treated them with the greateſt humanity, binding up their wounds, and adminiſtering to all their neceſſities. Among the thickeſt dead was found the breathleſs body of Tigranes, miſerably ſhattered and disfigured, but ſtill exhibiting evident marks of paſſion and ferocity. Sophron could not behold, without compaſſion, the friend of his early years, and the companion of his youthful ſports. Unhappy man! ſaid he, thou haſt, at length, paid the price of thy ungovernable ambition! How much better would it have been to have tended thy flocks upon the mountains, than to have blazed an angry meteor, and ſet for ever amid the curſes of thy country! He then covered the body with

ith a military veſt, and ordered it to be honourably burned upon a mighty funeral pile which was prepared for all the dead.

The next day, an immenſe quantity of ſpoil was collected that had been abandoned by the troops of Tigranes in their flight. The ſimple inhabitants of Lebanon, the greater part of whom had never been beyond the limits of their mountains, were aſtoniſhed at ſuch a diſplay of luxury and magnificence. Already the ſecret poiſon of ſenſuality and avarice began to inflame their hearts, as they gazed on coſtly hangings, enriched with gold and ſilver, on Perſian carpets, and drinking-veſſels of the moſt exquiſite workmanſhip. Already had they begun to differ about the diviſion of theſe ſplendid trifles, when Sophron, who marked the growing miſchief, and remembered the fatal effects which Chares had deſcribed in his travels, roſe, and propoſed to his countrymen, that the arms of their conquered enemies ſhould be carefully preſerved for the public defence, but that all the reſt of

the ſpoil ſhould be conſumed upon the funeral pile prepared for the dead, leſt the ſimplicity of the inhabitants of Lebanon ſhould be corrupted, and the happy equality and union which had hitherto prevailed among them interrupted. This propoſal was inſtantly applauded by all the older and wiſer part of the aſſembly, who rejoiced in ſeeing the evils averted which they had ſo much reaſon to apprehend: nor did thoſe of a different character dare to expreſs their ſentiments, or attempt any open oppoſition.

From this time, Sophron was univerſally honoured by all as the moſt virtuous and valiant of his nation. He paſſed the reſt of his life in peace and tranquillity, contented with the exerciſe of the ſame rural employments which had engaged his childhood. Chares, whoſe virtues and knowledge were equally admirable, was preſented at the public expenſe, with a ſmall but fertile tract of land, ſufficient to ſupply him with all the comforts of life; this the grate-

ful

ful inhabitants of the mountains continually cultivated for him, as a memorial of the ſignal aſſiſtance he had afforded them; and here, contented with the enjoyment of ſecurity and freedom, he paſſed the remaining part of his life in the contemplation of nature, and the delightful intercourſe of virtuous friendſhip.

When Miſs Simmons had finiſhed, Tommy expreſſed his aſtoniſhment at the latter part of the ſtory. Is it poſſible, ſaid he, there can be any thing of ſo extraordinary a nature as to burſt the very rocks aſunder, and deſtroy an army at once?—Have you, then, never heard the exploſion of a gun, or you are ignorant of the deſtructive effects of the powder with which they charge it? ſaid Mr. Barlow.

TOMMY.

Yes, ſir; but that is nothing to what Chares did in the ſtory.

MR. BARLOW.

That is only becauſe it its uſed in very incon-

inconſiderable portions; but, were you to increaſe the quantity, it would be capable of effecting every thing which you heard Miſs Simmons deſcribe. When nations are at war with each other, it is now univerſally the agent of deſtruction. They have large tubes of iron, called cannons, into which they ram a conſiderable quantity of powder, together with a large iron ball, as big as you are able to lift. They then ſet fire to the powder, which explodes with ſo much violence, that the ball flies out, and deſtroys, not only every living thing it meets with, but even demoliſhes the ſtrongeſt walls that can be raiſed. Sometimes it is buried in conſiderable quantities in the earth, and then they contrive to inflame it, and to eſcape in time. When the fire communicates with the maſs, it is all inflamed in an inſtant, and produces the horrible effects you have heard deſcribed. As ſuch are the irreſiſtible effects of gunpowder, it is no wonder that even a victorious army ſhould be ſtopped in their progreſs

greſs by ſuch a dreadful and unexpected event.

TOMMY.

That is true, indeed; and I declare Chares was a very good and ſenſible man. Had it not been for him, theſe brave inhabitants of Lebanon muſt have been enſlaved. I now plainly perceive, that a man may be of much more conſequence by improving his mind in various kinds of knowledge, even though he is poor, than by all the finery and magnificence he can acquire. I wiſh, with all my heart, that Mr. Barlow had been ſo good as to read this ſtory to the young gentlemen and ladies that were lately here. I think it would have made a great impreſſion upon their minds, and would have prevented their feeling ſo much contempt for poor Harry, who is better and wiſer than them all, though he does not powder his hair, or dreſs ſo genteelly.

Tommy, ſaid Mr. Merton, with a kind of contemptuous ſmile, why ſhould you believe that the hearing of a ſingle ſtory

would change the characters of all your late friends, when neither the good inſtructions you have been ſo long receiving from Mr. Barlow, nor the intimacy you have had with Harry, were ſufficient to reſtrain your impetuous temper, or prevent you from treating him in the ſhameful manner you have done?

Tommy appeared very much abaſhed with his father's rebuke; he hung down his head in ſilence a conſiderable time: at length he faintly ſaid—Oh, ſir! I have, indeed, acted very ill: I have rendered myſelf unworthy of the affection of all my beſt friends. But do not, pray, do not give me up entirely; you ſhall ſee how I will behave for the future; and, if ever I am guilty of the ſame faults again, I conſent that you ſhould abandon me for ever. Saying this, he ſilently ſtole out of the room, as if intent upon ſome extraordinary reſolution. His father obſerved his motions, and, ſmiling, ſaid to Mr. Barlow, What can this portend? This boy is changeable

as a weathercock. Every blaſt whirls him round and round upon his centre, nor will he ever fix, I fear, in any direction. At leaſt, ſaid Mr. Barlow, you have the greateſt reaſon to rejoice in his preſent impreſſions, which are good and eſtimable. And, I fear, it is the lot of moſt human beings to exhauſt almoſt every ſpecies of error before they fix in truth and virtue.

Tommy now entered the room, but with a remarkable change in his dreſs and manner. He had combed the powder out of his hair, and demoliſhed the elegance of his curls: he had diveſted his dreſs of every appearance of finery, and even his maſſy and ponderous buckles, ſo long the delight of his heart, and the wonder of his female friends, were taken from his ſhoes, and replaced by a pair of the plaineſt form and appearance. In this habiliment he appeared ſo totally changed from what he was, that even his mother, who had lately become a little ſparing of her obſervations, could not help exclaiming, What, in the

name

name of wonder, has the boy been doing now? Why, Tommy, I proteſt you have made yourſelf a perfect fright, and you look more like a ploughboy than a young gentleman!

Mamma, anſwered Tommy, gravely, I am only now what I ought always to have been. Had I been contented with this dreſs before, I never ſhould have imitated ſuch a parcel of coxcombs as you have lately had at your houſe; nor pretended to admire Miſs Matilda's muſic, which, I own, tired me as much as Harry, and had almoſt ſet me aſleep; nor ſhould I have expoſed myſelf at the play and the ball; and, what is worſt of all, I ſhould have avoided all my ſhameful behaviour to Harry at the bull-baiting. But, from this time, I ſhall apply myſelf to the ſtudy of nothing but reaſon and philoſophy; and therefore I have bid adieu to dreſs and finery for ever.

It was with great difficulty that the gentlemen could refrain from laughing at Tommy's harangue, delivered with infinite ſeri-

ouſneſs

ouſneſs and ſolemnity; they however concealed their emotions, and encouraged him to perſevere in ſuch a laudable reſolution. But, as the night was now pretty far advanced, the whole family retired to bed.

The next morning, early, Tommy aroſe and dreſſed himſelf with his newly adopted ſimplicity; and, as ſoon as breakfaſt was over, entreated Mr. Barlow to accompany him to Harry Sandford's. But he did not forget to take with him the lamb, which he had careſſed and fed with conſtant aſſiduity ever ſince he had ſo valiantly reſcued him from his devouring enemy. As they approached the houſe, the firſt object which Tommy diſtinguiſhed was his little friend at ſome diſtance, who was driving his father's ſheep along the common. At this ſight, his impetuoſity could no longer be reſtrained, and, ſpringing forward with all his ſpeed, he arrived in an inſtant, panting, and out of breath, and incapable of ſpeaking. Harry, who knew his friend, and plainly perceived the diſpoſitions with which

he

he approached, met him with open arms; ſo that the reconciliation was begun and completed in a moment; and Mr. Barlow, who now arrived with the lamb, had the pleaſure of ſeeing his little pupils mutually giving and receiving every unaffected mark of the warmeſt affection.

Harry, ſaid Mr. Barlow, I bring you a little friend, who is ſincerely penitent for his offences, and comes to own the faults he has committed. That I am, indeed, ſaid Tommy, a little recovered, and able to ſpeak. But I have behaved ſo ill, and have been ſuch an ungrateful fellow, that I am afraid Harry will never be able to forgive me. Indeed, indeed, ſaid Harry, there you do me the greateſt injuſtice; for I have already forgotten every thing but your former kindneſs and affection. And I, anſwered Tommy, will never forget how ill, how ungratefully I have uſed you, nor the goodneſs with which you now receive me. Tommy then recollected his lamb, and preſented it to his friend; while Mr.

Bar-

Barlow told him the ſtory of its reſcue, and the heroiſm exerted in its defence. Harry ſeemed to receive equal pleaſure from the reſtoration of his favourite, and the affection Tommy had ſhown in its preſervation, and, taking him by the hand, he led him into a ſmall but neat and convenient houſe, where he was moſt cordially welcomed by Harry's family. In a corner of the chimney ſat the honeſt black who had performed ſo ſignal a ſervice at the bull-baiting. Alas! ſaid Tommy, there is another inſtance of my negligence and ingratitude. I now ſee that one fault brings on another without end. Then, advancing to the black, he took him kindly by the hand, and thanked him for the preſervation of his life. 'Little maſter, replied he, you are extremely welcome to all I have done. I would at any time riſque my own ſafety to preſerve one of my fellow-creatures; and, if I have been of any uſe, I have been amply repaid by the kindneſs of this little boy, your friend, and all his worthy family. That is not enough,

ſaid

ſaid Tommy, and you ſhall ſoon find what it is to oblige a perſon like Here a ſtroke of preſumption was juſt coming out of Tommy's mouth, but, recollecting himſelf, he added, A perſon like my father. And now he addreſſed himſelf to Harry's mother, a venerable, decent woman, of a middle age, and his two ſiſters, plain, modeſt, healthy-looking girls, a little older than their brother. All theſe he treated with ſo much cordiality and attention, that all the company were delighted with him; ſo eaſy is it for thoſe who poſſeſs rank and fortune to gain the good-will of their fellow-creatures; and ſo inexcuſable is that ſurly pride which renders many of them deſervedly odious.

When dinner was ready, he ſat down with the reſt, and as it was the cuſtom here for every body to wait upon himſelf, Tommy inſiſted upon their ſuffering him to conform to the eſtabliſhed method. The victuals were not indeed very delicate, but the food was wholeſome, clean, and ſerved up

hot

hot to table; an advantage which is not always found in elegant apartments. Tommy ate with a conſiderable appetite, and ſeemed to enjoy his new ſituation as much as if he had never experienced any other. After the dinner was removed, he thought he might with propriety gratify the curioſity he felt to converſe with the black upon fighting bulls, for nothing had more aſtoniſhed him than the account he had heard of his courage, and the eaſe with which he had ſubdued ſo terrible an animal. My friend, ſaid he, I ſuppoſe in your own country you have been very much uſed to bull-baitings; otherwiſe you never would have dared to encounter ſuch a fierce creature; I muſt confeſs, though I can tame moſt animals, I never was more frighted in my life, than when I ſaw him break looſe; and without your aſſiſtance, I do not know what would have become of me.

Maſter, replied the black, it is not in my own country that I have learned to manage theſe animals. There, I have been accuſtomed

tomed to ſeveral kinds of hunting much more dangerous than this; and conſidering, how much you white people deſpiſe us blacks, I own, I was very much ſurpriſed to ſee ſo many hundreds of you running away from ſuch an inſignificant enemy as a poor tame bull.

Tommy bluſhed a little at the remembrance of the prejudices he had formerly entertained, concerning blacks and his own ſuperiority; but not chooſing now to enter upon the ſubject, he aſked the man where then he had acquired ſo much dexterity in taming them.

I will tell you, maſter, replied the black. When I lived a ſlave among the Spaniards at Buenos Ayres, it uſed to be a common employment of the people to go into the woods and hunt cattle down for their ſubſiſtence. The hunter mounts his fleeteſt horſe, and takes with him a ſtrong cord of a conſiderable length: when he ſees one of the wild kine, which he deſtines for his prey, he purſues it at full ſpeed, and never fails to over-

take it by the ſuperior ſwiftneſs of his horſe. While he is thus employed, he holds the cord ready, at the end of which a ſliding nooſe is formed; and when he is at a convenient diſtance, throws it from him with ſuch a certain hand, that the beaſt is entangled by one of his legs, after which it is impoſſible for him to eſcape.

That you may form the clearer idea of what a man is capable of executing, with courage and addreſs, I will relate a moſt extraordinary incident to which I was witneſs, during my reſidence in that part of the world. A certain man, a native of the country, had committed ſome offence, for which he was condemned to labour ſeveral years in the gallies. He found means to ſpeak to the governor of the town, and beſought him to change the nature of his puniſhment. I have been brought up, ſaid he, a warrior, and fear diſhonour, but not death. Inſtead of conſuming my ſtrength and ſpirits in ſuch an ignominious employment, let me have an opportunity of achieving ſomething

worthy to be beheld, or of periſhing like a brave man in the attempt. In a few days a ſolemn feaſt is to be celebrated, at which you will not fail to be preſent, attended by all your people. I will there, in the preſence of the whole city, encounter the fierceſt bull you can procure. I deſire no aſſiſtance but my horſe, no weapons but this cord; yet thus prepared I will meet his fury, and take him by the head, the horns, the feet, as you ſhall direct. I will then throw him down, bridle him, ſaddle him, and vault upon his back; in this ſituation, you ſhall turn out two more of the fierceſt bulls you can find, and I will attack them both, and put them all to death with my dagger, the inſtant you ſhall command. The governor conſented to this brave man's requeſt, more from curioſity to ſee ſo extraordinary a ſpectacle, than from the opinion it would be attended with ſucceſs. When the appointed day arrived, the inhabitants of all the city aſſembled, and took their ſeats in a vaſt building which ſurrounded

rounded a conſiderable open ſpace, deſtined for this amazing combat. The brave American then appeared, alone, on horſeback, armed with nothing but his cord; and, after riding round the place, and ſaluting the company, he waited intrepidly for his enemy. Preſently, an enormous bull was let looſe, who, as ſoon as he beheld the man, attacked him with all his fury. The American avoided his ſhock with infinite dexterity, and gallopped round the bull, who, in his turn, betook himſelf to flight. The valiant horſeman purſued his flying enemy, and, while he was thus engaged, deſired the governor to direct where he would have him ſeized. He replied, it was a matter of indifference to him; and the American inſtantly throwing his nooſe, which he held ready all the time, caught the bull in his flight by one of his hinder legs: then gallopping two or three times round the animal, he ſo enveloped him in the ſnare, that, after a few violent efforts to diſengage himſelf, he fell to the earth. He

then leaped lightly from his horſe, and the animal, who had been perfectly trained up to this kind of combat, ſtood ſtill and kept the cord extended; while his maſter advanced to the bull, and put him to death in an inſtant, by ſtabbing him with his dagger behind the horns. All the aſſembly uttered a ſhout of admiration; but the conqueror told them that what they had ſeen was nothing, and, diſentangling his cord from the ſlaughtered beaſt, he compoſedly mounted his horſe, and waited for a new and more formidable enemy. Preſently, the gate of the torillo was opened, and a bull, much more furious than the laſt, ruſhed out, whom he was ordered to bridle and ſaddle, according to his engagement.

I proteſt, ſaid Tommy, this is the moſt wonderful ſtory I ever heard. I do not believe all the fine gentlemen I have ever ſeen, put together, would dare to attack ſuch a bull.

Maſter, replied the black, the talents of mankind are various, and nature has, in every

every country, furniſhed the human ſpecies with all the qualities neceſſary for their preſervation. In this country, and many others which I have ſeen, there are thouſands who live like birds in cages upon the food provided by others, without doing any thing for themſelves. But they ſhould be contented with the happineſs they enjoy, if ſuch a life can be called happineſs, and not deſpiſe their fellow-creatures, without whoſe continual aſſiſtance they could not exiſt an inſtant.

Very true, indeed, anſwered Tommy. You ſeem to me a very honeſt, ſenſible man, though a negro; and, ſince I have given myſelf up to the improvement of my mind, I entertain the ſame opinions. But, let us hear how this brave man ſucceeded in his next attempt.

When the champion perceived this ſecond enemy approach, he waited for him with the ſame intrepidity he had diſcovered before, and avoided his formidable ſhock by making his horſe wheel nimbly round the

bull. When he had thus baffled his fury, and put his enemy to flight, he chaſed him ſome time as he had done the former, till he drove him near to the middle of the encloſed ſpace, where a ſtrong poſt had been firmly fixed into the ground. As ſoon as he approached the ſpot, he threw the unerring nooſe, and, catching the bull by the horns, entangled him as he had done before, and dragged him with ſome difficulty to the ſtake. To this he bound him down ſo cloſely, that it became impoſſible for the creature either to reſiſt or ſtir. Leaping then from his horſe, who remained immoveable as before, he took a ſaddle, which had been left there on purpoſe, and girded it firmly on the back of the bull; through his noſtrils he thruſt an iron ring, to which was fixed a cord, which he brought over his neck as a bridle; and then, arming his hand with a ſhort pike, he nimbly vaulted upon the back of this new and terrible courſer.

The creature all this time did not ceaſe

to bellow with every expreſſion of rage, which had not the leaſt effect upon the mind of this valiant man. On the contrary, coolly taking a knife, he cut the cord which bound him to the ſtake, and reſtored him to perfect liberty. The creature, thus diſengaged, exerted every effort of ſtrength and fury to throw his rider, who kept his ſeat undaunded in ſpite of all his violent agitations. The gates of the torillo were then thrown open, and two other furious bulls ruſhed out, and ſeemed ready to attack the man; but, at the inſtant they perceived the manner in which he was mounted, their rage gave way to terror, and they fled precipitately away. The other bull followed his companions, and bore his rider ſeveral times round the amphitheatre in this extraordinary chaſe. This ſpectacle had already laſted ſome time, to the admiration of all preſent, when the governor ordered the man to complete the buſineſs by putting all the bulls to death. He, inſtantly drawing his knife, plunged it behind

the horns of the bull on which he rode, who immediately dropped down dead, while the conqueror, diſengaging himſelf as he fell, ſtood upright by the ſlaughtered animal. He then mounted his horſe again, who had been placed in ſafety at ſome little diſtance, and purſuing the chaſe as before, with his fatal nooſe, diſpatched both the ſurviving animals without the leaſt difficulty.

Tommy expreſſed the greateſt admiration at this recital; and now, as the evening began to advance, Mr. Barlow invited him to return. But Tommy, inſtead of complying, took him by the hand, thanked him for all his kindneſs and attention, but declared his reſolution of ſtaying ſome time with his friend Harry. The more I conſider my own behaviour, ſaid he, the more I feel myſelf aſhamed of my folly and ingratitude. But you have taught me, my dear ſir, that all I have in my power is to acknowledge them, which I moſt willingly do before all this good family, and entreat

Harry

Harry to think that the impreſſions I now feel are ſuch as I ſhall never forget. Harry embraced his friend, and aſſured him once more of his being perfectly reconciled; and all the family ſtood mute with admiration at the condeſcenſion of the young gentleman, who was not aſhamed of acknowledging his faults even to his inferiors.

Mr. Barlow approved of Tommy's deſign, and took upon him to anſwer for the conſent of Mr. Merton to his ſtaying ſome time with Harry; then taking his leave of all the company, he departed.

But Tommy began now to enter upon a courſe of life which was very little conſiſtent with his former habits. He ſupped with great cheerfulneſs, and even found himſelf happy with the ruſtic fare which was ſet before him, accompanied as it was with unaffected civility, and an hearty welcome. He went to bed early, and ſlept very ſound all night; however, when Harry came to call him the next morning at five, as he had made him promiſe to do, he found a con-

ſiderable difficulty in rouſing himſelf at the ſummons. Conſcious pride, however, and the newly acquired dignity of his character, ſupported him; he recollected that he ſhould diſgrace himſelf in the eyes of his father, of Mr. Barlow, and of all the family, with which he now was, if he appeared incapable of acting up to his own declarations: he therefore made a noble effort, leaped out of bed, dreſſed himſelf, and followed Harry. Not contented with this, he accompanied him in all his ruſtic employments, and, as no kind of country exerciſe was entirely new to him ſince his reſidence with Mr. Barlow, he acquitted himſelf with a degree of dexterity which gained him new commendations.

Thus did he paſs the firſt day of his viſit, with ſome little difficulty indeed, but without deviating from his reſolution. The ſecond, he found his change of life infinitely more tolerable; and, in a very little ſpace of time, he was almoſt reconciled to his new ſituation. The additional exerciſe

he

he uſed improved his health and ſtrength, and added ſo conſiderably to his appetite, that he began to think the table of farmer Sandford exceeded all he had ever tried before.

By thus practiſing the common uſeful occupations of life, he began to feel a more tender intereſt in the common concerns of his fellow-creatures. He now found, from his own experience, that Mr. Barlow had not deceived him in the various repreſentations he had made of the utility of the lower claſſes, and conſequently of the humanity which is due to them when they diſcharge their duty. Nor did that gentleman abandon his little friend in this important trial. He viſited him frequently, pointed out every thing that was curious or intereſting about the farm, and encouraged him to perſevere by his praiſes. You are now, ſaid Mr. Barlow, one day, beginning to practiſe thoſe virtues which have rendered the great men of other times ſo juſtly famous. It is not by ſloth, nor finery, nor

the mean indulgence of our appetites, that greatneſs of character, or even reputation, is to be acquired. He that would excel others in virtue or knowledge, muſt firſt excel them in temperance and application. You cannot imagine that men fit to command an army, or to give laws to a ſtate, were ever formed by an idle and effeminate education. When the Roman people, oppreſſed by their enemies, were looking out for a leader able to defend them, and change the fortune of the war, where did they ſeek for this extraordinary man? It was neither at banquets, nor in ſplendid palaces, nor amid the gay, the elegant, or the diſſipated; they turned their ſteps towards a poor and ſolitary cottage, ſuch as the meaneſt of your late companions would conſider with contempt; there they found Cincinnatus, whoſe virtues and abilities were allowed to excel all the reſt of his citizens, turning up the ſoil with a pair of oxen, and holding the plough himſelf. This great man had been enured to arms and the

manage-

management of public affairs, even from his infancy; he had repeatedly led the Roman legions to victory; yet in the hour of peace, or when his country did not require his ſervices, he deemed no employment more honourable than to labour for his own ſubſiſtence.

What would all your late friends have ſaid, to ſee the greateſt men in England, and the braveſt officers of the army, crowding round the houſe of one of thoſe obſcure farmers you have been accuſtomed to deſpiſe, and entreating him, in the moſt reſpectful language, to leave his fields, and accept of the higheſt dignity in the government or army? Yet this was actually the ſtate of things at Rome; and it was characters like theſe, with all the train of ſevere and rugged virtues, that elevated that people above all the other nations of the world.—And tell me, my little friend, ſince chance, not merit, too frequently allots the ſituation in which men are to act, had you rather, in an high ſtation, appear to all

mankind

mankind unworthy of the advantages you enjoy, or, in a low one, ſeem equal to the moſt exalted employments by your virtues and abilities?

Such were the converſations which Mr. Barlow frequently held with Tommy, and which never failed to inſpire him with new reſolution to perſevere. Nor could he help being frequently affected by the compariſon of Harry's behaviour with his own. No cloud ſeemed ever to ſhade the features of his friend, or alter the uniform ſweetneſs of his temper. Even the repeated provocations he had received were either totally obliterated, or had made no diſagreeable impreſſions. After diſcharging the neceſſary duties of the day, he gave up the reſt of his time to the amuſement of Tommy, with ſo much zeal and affection, that he could not avoid loving him a thouſand times better than before.

During the evening he frequently converſed with the honeſt negro concerning the moſt remarkable circumſtances of the country

country where he was born. One night that he ſeemed peculiarly inquiſitive, the black gave him the following account of himſelf.

I was born, ſaid he, in the neighbourhood of the river Gambia in Africa. In this country people are aſtoniſhed at my colour, and ſtart at the ſight of a black man, as if he did not belong to their ſpecies: but there, every body reſembles me; and when the firſt white men landed upon our coaſt, we were as much ſurpriſed with their appearance as you can be with ours. In ſome parts of the world I have ſeen men of a yellow hue, in others of a copper colour, and all have the fooliſh vanity to deſpiſe their fellow-creatures as infinitely inferior to themſelves. There indeed they entertain theſe conceits from ignorance; but in this country, where the natives pretend to ſuperior reaſon, I have often wondered they could be influenced by ſuch a prejudice. Is a black horſe thought to be inferior to a white one, in ſpeed, or ſtrength, or courage? Is a white cow thought to give more milk, or

a white

a white dog to have an acuter ſcent in purſuing the game? On the contrary, I have generally found, in almoſt every country, that a pale colour in animals is conſidered as a mark of weakneſs and inferiority. Why then ſhould a certain race of men imagine themſelves ſuperior to the reſt, for the very circumſtance they deſpiſe in other animals?

But in the country where I was born, it is not only man that differs from what we ſee here, but every other circumſtance. Here, for a conſiderable part of the year, you are chilled by froſts and ſnows, and ſcarcely behold the preſence of the ſun during that gloomy ſeaſon that is called the winter. With us the ſun is always preſent, pouring out light and heat, and ſcorching us with his fierceſt beams. In my country we know no difference in the lengths of nights and days: all are of equal length throughout the year, and preſent not that continual variety which you ſee here. We have neither ice, nor froſt, nor ſnow; the trees never loſe

their

their leaves, and we have fruits in every ſeaſon of the year. During ſeveral months, indeed, we are ſcorched by unremitting heats, which parch the ground, dry up the rivers, and afflict both men and animals with intolerable thirſt. In that ſeaſon, you may behold lions, tigers, elephants, and a variety of other ferocious animals, driven from their dark abodes in the midſt of impenetrable foreſts, down to the lower grounds and the ſides of rivers. Every night we hear their ſavage yells, their cries of rage, and think ourſelves ſcarcely ſafe in our cottages. In this country you have reduced all other animals to ſubjection, and have nothing to fear except from each other. You even ſhelter yourſelves from the injuries of the weather in manſions that ſeem calculated to laſt for ever, in impenetrable houſes of brick or ſtone, that would have ſcarcely any thing to fear from the whole animal creation; but, with us, a few reeds twiſted together, and perhaps daubed over with ſlime or mud, compoſe the whole of our dwellings.

dwellings. Yet there the innocent negro would ſleep as happy and contented as you do in your palaces, provided you did not drag him by fraud and violence away, and force him to endure all the exceſſes of your cruelty.

It was in one of theſe cottages that I firſt remember any thing of myſelf. A few ſtakes ſet in the ground, and interwoven with dry reeds, covered at top with the ſpreading leaves of the palm, compoſed our dwelling. Our furniture conſiſted of three or four earthen pipkins, in which our food was dreſſed; a few mats woven with a ſilky kind of graſs to ſerve as beds; the inſtruments with which my mother turned the ground, and the javelin, arrows, and lines, which my father uſed in fiſhing or the chaſe. In this country, and many others where I have been, I obſerve that nobody thinks himſelf happy till he has got together a thouſand things which he does not want, and can never uſe; you live in houſes ſo big, that they are fit to contain an army;

you

you cover yourſelves with ſuperfluous clothes that reſtrain all the motions of your bodies: when you want to eat, you muſt have meat enough ſerved up to nouriſh a whole village; yet I have ſeen poor famiſhed wretches ſtarving at your gate, while the maſter had before him at leaſt an hundred times as much as he could conſume. We negroes, whom you treat as ſavages, have different manners and different opinions. The firſt thing that I can remember of myſelf was the running naked about ſuch a cottage as I have deſcribed, with four of my little brothers and ſiſters. I have obſerved your children here with aſtoniſhment: as ſoon as they are born, it ſeems to be the buſineſs of all about them, to render them weak, helpleſs, and unable to uſe any of their limbs. The little negro, on the contrary, is ſcarcely born before he learns to crawl about upon the ground. Unreſtrained by bandages or ligatures, he comes as ſoon and as eaſily to the perfect uſe of all his organs as any of the beaſts which ſurround him. Before your children

children here are taught to venture themſelves upon their feet, he has the perfect uſe of his, and can follow his mother in her daily labours.

This I remember was my own caſe. Sometimes I uſed to go with my mother to the field, where all the women of the village were aſſembled to plant rice for their ſubſiſtence. The joyful ſongs which they uſed to ſing, amid their toils, delighted my infant ear; and, when their daily taſk was done, they danced together under the ſhade of ſpreading palms. In this manner did they raiſe the ſimple food, which was ſufficient for themſelves and their children; yams, a root reſembling your potatoe, Indian corn, and, above all, rice: to this were added the fruits which nature ſpontaneouſly produced in our woods, and the produce of the chaſe and fiſhing. Yet with this we are as much contented as you are with all your ſplendid tables, and enjoy a greater ſhare of health and ſtrength. As ſoon as the fiery heat of the ſun declined, you might behold the

maſter

maſter of every cottage repoſing before his own door, and feaſting upon his meſs of roots or fruits, with all his family around. If a traveller or ſtranger happened to come from a diſtant country, he was welcome to enter into every houſe, and ſhare the proviſions of the family. No door was barred againſt his entrance, no ſurly ſervant inſulted him for his poverty; he entered wherever he pleaſed, ſet himſelf down with the family, and then purſued his journey, or repoſed himſelf in quiet till the next morning. In each of our towns there is generally a large building, where the elder part of the ſociety are accuſtomed to meet in the ſhade of the evening, and converſe upon a variety of ſubjects; the young and vigorous divert themſelves with dances and other paſtimes, and the children of different ages amuſe themſelves with a thouſand ſports and gambols adapted to their age: ſome aim their little arrows at marks, or dart their light and blunted javelins at each other, to form themſelves for the exerciſes

of

of war and the chaſe; others wreſtle naked upon the ſand, or run in ſportive races with a degree of activity which I have never ſeen among the Europeans, who pretend to be our maſters.

I have deſcribed to you the building of our houſes; ſimple as they are, they anſwer every purpoſe of human life, and every man is his own architect. An hundred or two of theſe edifices compoſe our towns, which are generally ſurrounded by lofty hedges of thorns to ſecure us from the midnight attacks of wild beaſts, with only a ſingle entrance, which is carefully cloſed at night.

You talk, ſaid Tommy, of wild beaſts; pray have you many of them in your country? Yes, ſaid the black, maſter, we have them of many ſorts, equally dreadful and ferocious. Firſt, we have the lion, which I dare ſay you have heard of, and perhaps ſeen. He is bigger than the largeſt maſtiff, and infinitely ſtronger and more fierce; his paws alone are ſuch, that with a ſingle blow

blow he is able to knock down a man, and almoſt every other animal; but theſe paws are armed with claws ſo ſharp and dreadful, that nothing can reſiſt their violence. When he roars, every beaſt of the foreſt betakes himſelf to flight, and even the boldeſt hunter can ſcarcely hear it without diſmay. Sometimes, the moſt valiant of our youth aſſemble in bands, arm themſelves with arrows and javelins, and go to the chaſe of theſe deſtructive animals. When they have found his retreat, they generally make a circle round, uttering ſhouts and cries, and claſhing their arms, to rouſe him to reſiſtance. The lion, meanwhile, looks round upon his aſſailants with indifference or contempt; neither their number, nor their horrid ſhouts, nor the glitter of their radiant arms, can daunt him for an inſtant. At length he begins to laſh his ſides with his long and nervous tail, a certain ſign of riſing rage; his eyes ſparkle with deſtructive fires; and, if the number of the hunters is very great, he perhaps

moves ſlowly on. But this he is not permitted to do; a javelin, thrown at him from behind, wounds him in the flank, and compels him to turn. Then you behold him rouſed to fury and deſperation; neither wounds, nor ſtreaming blood, nor a triple row of barbed ſpears, can prevent him from ſpringing upon the daring black who has wounded him. Should he reach him, in the attack, it is certain death; but generally the hunter, who is at once contending for glory and his own life, and is enured to danger, avoids him by a nimble leap, and all his companions haſten to his aſſiſtance. Thus is the lion preſſed and wounded on every ſide, his rage is ineffectual, and only exhauſts his ſtrength the faſter; an hundred wounds are pouring out his blood at once, and at length he bites the ground in the agonies of death, and yields the victory, though unconquered.

When he is dead, he is carried back in triumph by the hunters, as a trophy of their courage. All the village ruſhes out at once;

once; the young, the old, women and children, uttering joyful ſhouts, and praiſing the valour of their champions. The elders admire his prodigious ſize, his mighty limbs, his dreadful fangs, and perhaps repeat tales of their own exploits; the women ſeem to tremble at their fierce enemy even in his death; while the men compel their children to approach the monſter, and tinge their little weapons in his blood. All utter joyful exclamations, and feaſts are made in every houſe, to which the victors are invited as the principal gueſts. Theſe are intended at once to reward thoſe who have performed ſo gallant an achievement, and to encourage a ſpirit of enterpriſe in the reſt of the nation.

What a dreadful kind of hunting muſt this be! ſaid Tommy. But I ſuppoſe if any one meets a lion alone, it is impoſſible to reſiſt him. Not always, anſwered the black. I will tell you what I once was witneſs to myſelf. My father was reckoned not only the moſt ſkilful hunter, but one of the

braveſt of our tribe: innumerable are the wild beaſts which have fallen beneath his arm. One evening, when the inhabitants of the whole village were aſſembled at their ſports and dances, a monſtrous lion, allured, I ſuppoſe, by the ſmell of human fleſh, burſt unexpectedly upon them, without warning them of his approach, by roaring, as he commonly does. As they were unarmed, and unprepared for defence, all but my father inſtantly fled, trembling, to their huts; but he, who had never yet turned his back upon any beaſt of the foreſt, drew from his ſide a kind of knife, or dagger, which he conſtantly wore, and, placing one knee and one hand upon the ground, waited the approach of his terrible foe. The lion inſtantly ruſhed upon him with a fury not to be deſcribed; but my father received him upon the point of his weapon, with ſo ſteady and ſo compoſed an aim, that he buried it ſeveral inches in his belly. The beaſt attacked him a ſecond time, and a ſecond time received a dread-

ful

ful wound, not however without laying bare one of my father's ſides with a ſudden ſtroke of his claws. The reſt of the village then ruſhed in, and ſoon diſpatched the lion with innumerable wounds.

This exploit appeared ſo extraordinary, that it ſpread my father's fame throughout the whole country, and gained him the name of the undaunted hunter, as an honourable diſtinction, from the neighbourhood.—Under ſuch a parent, it was not long before I was taught every ſpecies of the chaſe. At firſt, my father only ſuffered me to purſue ſtags and other feeble animals, or took me in his canoe to fiſh. Soon, however, I was entruſted with a bow and arrows, and placed with many other children and young men to defend our rice-fields from the depredations of the river-horſe. Rice, it is neceſſary to obſerve, is a plant that requires great moiſture in the ſoil; all our plantations, therefore, are made by the ſide of rivers, in the ſoft fertile ſoil which is overflowed in the rainy ſeaſon.

But when the grain is almoſt ripe, we are forced to defend it from a variety of hurtful animals, that would otherwiſe deprive us of the fruits of our labours; among theſe, one of the principal is the animal I have mentioned. His ſize and bulk are immenſe, being twice the bigneſs of the largeſt ox which I have ſeen in this country. He has four legs, which are ſhort and thick, an head of a monſtrous magnitude, and jaws that are armed with teeth of a prodigious ſize and ſtrength; beſides two prominent tuſks, which threaten deſtruction to all aſſailants.

But this animal, though ſo large and ſtrong, is chiefly an inhabitant of the river, where he lives upon fiſh and water-roots. It is ſometimes a curious but a dreadful ſight, when a boat is gliding over a ſmooth part of the ſtream, of unuſual depth and clearneſs, to look down and behold this monſtrous creature travelling along the bottom ſeveral yards below the ſurface. Whenever this happens, the boatman inſtantly

ſtantly paddles another way; for ſuch is the ſtrength of the creature, that he is able to overſet a bark of moderate ſize, by riſing under it, or to tear out a plank with his fangs, and expoſe thoſe who are in it to the dangers of an unexpected ſhipwreck. All the day he chiefly hides himſelf in the water, and preys upon fiſh; but, during the gloom of night, he iſſues from the river, and invades the fields of ſtanding corn, which he would ſoon lay deſolate, were he not driven back by the ſhouts and cries of thoſe who are ſtationed to defend them. At this work I had aſſiſted ſeveral ſucceſſive nights, till we were almoſt wearied with watching. At length, one of the moſt enterpriſing of our young men propoſed, that we ſhould no longer content ourſelves with driving back the enemy, but boldly attack him, and puniſh him for his temerity. With this purpoſe, we concealed ourſelves in a convenient ſpot, till we had ſeen one of the river-horſes iſſue from the water, and advance a conſiderable way into our plantations: then

we ruſhed from our hiding-place with furious ſhouts and cries, and endeavoured to intercept his return: but the beaſt, confiding in his ſuperior ſtrength, advanced ſlowly on, ſnarling horribly, and gnaſhing his dreadful tuſks; and in this manner he opened his way through the thickeſt of our battalions. In vain we poured upon him on every ſide our darts and arrows, and every miſſive weapon; ſo well defended was he in an impenetrable hide, that every weapon either rebounded as from a wall, or glanced aſide without in the leaſt annoying. At length, one of the boldeſt of our youth advanced unguardedly upon him, and endeavoured to wound him from a ſhorter diſtance; but the furious beaſt, ruſhing upon him with an unexpected degree of ſwiftneſs, ripped up his body with a ſingle ſtroke of his enormous tuſk, and then, ſeizing him in his furious jaws, lifted up his mangled body as if in triumph, and cruſhed him into a bleeding and promiſcuous maſs. Fear inſtantly ſeized upon our company; all

all involuntarily retreated, and ſeemed inclined to quit the unequal combat; all but myſelf, who, inflamed with grief and rage for the loſs of my companion, determined either to revenge his death, or periſh in the attempt. Seeing, therefore, that it was in vain to attack him in the uſual manner, I choſe the ſharpeſt arrow, and fitted it to the bow-ſtring; then, with a cool, unterrified aim, obſerving the animal that moved nimbly on to the river, I diſcharged it full at his broad and glaring eye-ball with ſuch ſucceſs, that the barbed point penetrated even to his brain, and the monſter fell expiring to the ground.

This action, magnified beyond its deſerts, gained me univerſal applauſe throughout the hamlet: I was from that time looked upon as one of the moſt valiant and fortunate of our youth. The immenſe body of the monſter which I had ſlain was cut to pieces, and borne in triumph to the village. All the young women received me with ſongs of joy and congratulation; the young

men adopted me as their leader in every hazardous expedition, and the elders applauded me with ſuch expreſſions of eſteem as filled my ignorant heart with vanity and exultation.

But, what was more agreeable to me than all the reſt, my father received me with tranſport, and, preſſing me to his boſom with tears of joy, told me, that now he could die with pleaſure, ſince I had exceeded his moſt ſanguine expectations. I, ſaid he, have not lived inactive, or inglorious; I have tranſfixed the tiger with my ſhafts; I have, though alone, attacked the lion in his rage, the terror of the woods, the fierceſt of animals; even the elephant has been compelled to turn his back and fly before my javelin: but never, in the pride of my youth and ſtrength, did I achieve ſuch an exploit as this. He then went into his cabin, and brought forth the bow and fatal arrows which he was accuſtomed to uſe in the chaſe. Take them, take them, ſaid he, my ſon, and reſcue

my

my weaker arm from a burden which it is no longer deſtined to ſuſtain. Age is now creeping on; my blood begins to cool, my ſinews ſlacken, and I am no longer equal to the taſk of ſupporting the glories of our race. That care ſhall now be thine, and with a firmer hand ſhalt thou henceforth uſe theſe weapons againſt the beaſts of the foreſt and the enemies of our country.

Such was the account which the negro gave to Tommy, in different converſations, of his birth and education. His curioſity was gratified with the recital, and his heart expanded in the ſame proportion that his knowledge improved. He reflected, with ſhame and contempt, upon the ridiculous prejudices he had once entertained; he learned to conſider all men as his brethren and equals; and the fooliſh diſtinctions which pride had formerly ſuggeſted were gradually obliterated from his mind. Such a change in his ſentiments rendered him more mild, more obliging, more engaging

than ever; he became the delight of all the family; and Harry, although he had always loved him, now knew no limits to his affection.

One day he was ſurpriſed by an unexpected viſit from his father, who met him with open arms, and told him, that he was now come to take him back to his own houſe. I have heard, ſaid he, ſuch an account of your preſent behaviour, that the paſt is entirely forgotten, and I begin to glory in owning you for a ſon. He then embraced him with the tranſports of an affectionate father who indulges the ſtrongeſt ſentiments of his heart, but ſentiments he had long been forced to reſtrain. Tommy returned his careſſes with genuine warmth, but with a degree of reſpect and humility he had once been little accuſtomed to uſe. I will accompany you home, ſir, ſaid he, with the greateſt readineſs; for I wiſh to ſee my mother, and hope to give her ſome ſatisfaction by my future behaviour. You have both had too much to complain of in

the paſt; and I am unworthy of ſuch affectionate parents. He then turned his face aſide, and ſhed a tear of real virtue and gratitude, which he inſtantly wiped away as unworthy the compoſure and fortitude of his new character.

But, ſir, added he, I hope you will not object to my detaining you a little longer, while I return my acknowledgments to all the family, and take my leave of Harry. Surely, ſaid Mr. Merton, you can entertain no doubt upon that ſubject: and, to give you every opportunity of diſcharging all your duties to a family, to which you owe ſo much, I intend to take a dinner with Mr. Sandford, whom I now ſee coming home, and then returning with you in the evening.

At this inſtant farmer Sandford approached, and very reſpectfully ſaluting Mr. Merton, invited him to walk in. But Mr. Merton, after returning his civility, drew him aſide as if he had ſome private buſineſs to communicate. When they were

alone, he made him every acknowledgment that gratitude could ſuggeſt; but words, added Mr. Merton, are very inſufficient to return the favours I have received; for it is to your excellent family, together with the virtuous Mr. Barlow, that I owe the preſervation of my ſon. Let me, therefore, entreat you to accept of what this pocket-book contains, as a ſlight proof of my ſentiments, and lay it out in whatever manner you pleaſe, for the advantage of your family.

Mr. Sandford, who was a man both of ſenſe and humour, took the book, and, examining the inſide, found that it contained bank-notes to the amount of ſome hundred pounds. He then carefully ſhut it up again, and, returning it to Mr. Merton, told him that he was infinitely obliged to him for the generoſity which prompted him to ſuch a princely act; but, as to the preſent itſelf, he muſt not be offended if he declined it. Mr. Merton, ſtill more aſtoniſhed at ſuch diſintereſtedneſs, preſſed him with

with every argument he could think of; he desired him to consider the state of his family; his daughters unprovided for; his son himself, with dispositions that might adorn a throne, brought up to labour; and his own advancing age, which demanded ease and respite, and an increase of the conveniences of life.

And what, replied the honest farmer, is it, but these conveniences of life, that are the ruin of all the nation? When I was a young man, master Merton, and that is near forty years ago, people in my condition thought of nothing but doing their duty to God and man, and labouring hard: this brought down a blessing upon their heads, and made them thrive in all their worldly concerns. When I was a boy, farmers did not lie droning in bed as they do now till six or seven; my father, I believe, was as good a judge of business as any in the neighbourhood, and turned as straight a furrow as any ploughman in the county of Devon; that silver cup, which I intend

intend to have the honour of drinking your health out of to-day at dinner, that very cup was won by him at the great ploughing-match near Axminſter.—Well, my father uſed to ſay, that a farmer was not worth a farthing that was not in the field by four; and my poor dear mother too, the beſt-tempered woman in the world, ſhe always began milking exactly at five; and if a ſingle ſoul was to be found in bed after four in ſummer, you might have heard her from one end of the farm to the other.—I would not diſparage any body, or any thing, my good ſir; but thoſe were times indeed; the women, then, knew ſomething about the management of an houſe: it really was quite a pleaſure to hear my poor mother lecture the ſervants; and the men were men, indeed; pray, did you ever hear the ſtory of my father's being at Truro, and throwing the famous Corniſh wreſtler, ſquinting Dick the miner?

Mr. Merton began to be convinced, that, whatever other qualities good Mr. Sandford

ford might have, he did not excel in brevity; and therefore endeavoured in ſtill ſtronger terms to overcome the delicacy of the farmer, and prevail upon him to accept his preſent.

But the good farmer purſued his point thus; Thank you, thank you, my dear ſir, a thouſand times, for your good will; but, as to the money, I muſt beg your pardon if I perſiſt in refuſing it. Formerly, ſir, as I was ſaying, we were all happy and healthy, and our affairs proſpered, becauſe we never thought about the conveniences of life: now, I hear of nothing elſe. One neighbour, for I will not mention names, brings his ſon up to go a-ſhooting with gentlemen; another ſends his to market upon a blood horſe, with a plated bridle; and then the girls, the girls!—There is fine work, indeed; they muſt have their hats and feathers, and riding-habits; their heads as big as buſhels, and even their hind-quarters ſtuck out with cork or paſteboard; but ſcarcely one of them can milk a cow,

or churn, or bake, or do any one thing that is neceſſary in a family; ſo that unleſs the government will ſend them all to this new ſettlement, which I have heard ſo much of, and bring us a cargo of plain, honeſt houſewives, who have never been at boarding-ſchools, I cannot conceive how we farmers are to get wives.

Mr. Merton laughed very heartily at this ſally, and told him, that he would venture to aſſert it was not ſo at his houſe.—Not quite ſo bad, indeed, ſaid the farmer; my wife was bred up under a notable mother, and, though ſhe muſt have her tea every afternoon, is, in the main, a very good ſort of woman. She has brought her daughters up a little better than uſual; but I can aſſure you ſhe and I have had many a good argument upon the ſubject. Not but ſhe approves their milking, ſpinning, and making themſelves uſeful; but ſhe would fain have them genteel, maſter Merton: all women now are mad after gentility; and, when once gentility begins, there is an end

of

of induſtry. Now, were they to hear of ſuch a ſum as you have generouſly offered, there would be no peace in the houſe. My wenches, inſtead of Deb and Kate, would be miſs Deborah and miſs Catharine; in a little time, they muſt be ſent to boarding-ſchool, to learn French and muſic, and wriggling about the room. And, when they come back, who muſt boil the pot, or make the pudding, or ſweep the houſe, or ſerve the pigs?—Did you ever hear of miſs Juliana, or miſs Harriet, or miſs Carolina, doing ſuch vulgar things?

Mr. Merton was very much ſtruck with the honeſt farmer's method of expreſſing himſelf, and could not help internally allowing the truth of his repreſentations; yet he ſtill preſſed him to accept his preſent, and reminded him of the improvement of his farm.

Thank you again, and again, replied the farmer; but the whole generation of the Sandfords have been brought up to labour with their own hands for theſe hundred years;

years; and, during all that time, there has not been a diſhoneſt perſon, a gentleman, or a madman amongſt us. And ſhall I be the firſt to break the cuſtoms of the family, and perhaps bring down a curſe on all our heads?—What could I have more, if I were a lord, or a macaroni, as I think you call them?—I have plenty of victuals and work, good firing, clothes, warm houſe, a little for the poor, and, between you and I, ſomething, perhaps, in a corner to ſet my children off with, if they behave well. —Ah! neighbour, neighbour, if you did but know the pleaſure of holding plough after a good team of horſes, and then going tired to bed, perhaps you'd wiſh to have been brought up a farmer too.—But in one word, as well as a thouſand, I ſhall never forget the extraordinary kindneſs of your offer; but, if you would not ruin a whole family of innocent people that love you, even conſent to leave us as we are.

Mr. Merton then ſeeing the fixed determination of the farmer, and feeling the

juſtice

juſtice of his coarſe but ſtrong morality, was obliged, however reluctantly, to deſiſt; and Mrs. Sandford coming to invite them to dinner, he entered the houſe, and paid his reſpects to the family.

After the cloth was removed, and Mr. Sandford had twice or thrice repleniſhed his ſilver mug, the only piece of finery in his houſe, little Harry came running in, with ſo much alacrity and heedleſſneſs, that he tore miſs Deborah's beſt apron, and had nearly precipitated miſs Catharine's new cap into the fire, for which the young ladies and his mother rebuked him with ſome acrimony. But Harry, after begging pardon with his uſual good-humour, cried, Father, father, here is the prettieſt team of horſes, all matched, and of a colour, with new harneſs, the moſt complete I ever ſaw in my life; and they have ſtopped at our back-door, and the man ſays they are brought for you. Farmer Sandford was juſt then in the middle of his hiſtory of the ploughing-match at Axminſter; but the relation

relation of his ſon had ſuch an involuntary effect upon him, that he ſtarted up, overſet the liquor and the table, and, making an haſty apology to Mr. Merton, ran out to ſee theſe wonderful horſes.

Preſently he returned, in equal admiration with his ſon. Maſter Merton, ſaid he, I did not think you had been ſo good a judge of an horſe. I ſuppoſe they are a new purchaſe, which you want to have my opinion upon; and, I can aſſure you, they are the true Suffolk ſorrels, the firſt breed of working horſes in the kingdom; and theſe are ſome of the beſt of their kind. Such as they are, anſwered Mr. Merton, they are yours; and I cannot think, after the obligations I am under to your family, that you will do me ſo great a diſpleaſure as to refuſe. Mr. Sandford ſtood for ſome time in mute aſtoniſhment; but, at length, he was beginning the civileſt ſpeech he could think of to refuſe ſo great a preſent, when Tommy coming up, took him by the hand, and begged him not to deny to

his

his father and himſelf the firſt favour they had ever aſked. Beſides, ſaid he, this preſent is leſs to yourſelf than to little Harry; and, ſurely, after having lived ſo long in your family, you will not turn me out with diſgrace, as if I had miſbehaved. —Here Harry himſelf interpoſed, and, conſidering leſs the value of the preſent than the feelings and intentions of the giver, he took his father by the hand, and beſought him to oblige maſter Merton and his father. Were it any one elſe, I would not ſay a word, added he; but I know the generoſity of Mr. Merton and the goodneſs of maſter Tommy ſo well, that they will receive more pleaſure from giving, than you from taking the horſes: though, I muſt confeſs, they are ſuch as would do credit to any body; and they beat farmer Knowles's all to nothing, which have long been reckoned the beſt team in all the country.

This laſt reflection, joined with all that had preceded, overcame the delicacy of

Mr.

Mr. Sandford; and he at length consented to order the horses to be led into his stables. And now Mr. Merton, having made the most affectionate acknowledgments to all this worthy and happy family, among whom he did not forget the honest black, whom he promised to provide for, summoned his son to accompany him home. Tommy arose, and, with the sincerest gratitude, bade adieu to Harry and all the rest. I shall not be long without you, said he to Harry; to your example I owe most of the little good that I can boast; you have taught me how much better it is to be useful than rich or fine; how much more amiable to be good than to be great.—Should I be ever tempted to relapse, even for an instant, into any of my former habits, I will return hither for instruction; and I hope you will again receive me. Saying this, he shook his friend Harry affectionately by the hand, and, with watery eyes, accompanied his father home.

THE END.

Piccadilly, Sept. 3, 1798.

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